

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4450
ANSWERED ON:20.12.2012
VIOLATION OF RIGHT TO WATER
Singh Shri Radha Mohan

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the concerns of several former judges that the fundamental rights of citizens would be violated if water plants of metro cities are handed over to private companies;
- (b) if so, the reaction of the Union Government thereto;
- (c) whether public protest is increasing against this move; and
- (d) if so, the steps being taken by the Union Government to check privatization of water?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI HARISH RAWAT)

(a) to (d) The State Governments/Urban Local bodies plan, design, execute and operate the water supply and sanitation, including municipal solid waste schemes, in the urban areas of the country. The authority for operating water plants rests with the Urban Local Bodies/State Government Departments. Private organizations are sometimes involved in the operation of the plant, which at times is opposed by some groups.

The draft National Water Policy, (2012) stipulates that "water resources projects and services should be managed with community participation. Wherever the State Governments or local governing bodies so decide, the private sector can be encouraged to become a service provider in public private partnership model to meet agreed terms of service delivery, including penalties for failure".