

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2854

ANSWERED ON:14.03.2013

NATIONAL WATER POLICY

Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji; Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba; Dharmshi Shri Babar Gajanan; Kumar Shri P.; Maadam Shri Vikrambhai Arjanbhai; Punia Shri P.L.; Sivasami Shri C.; Yadav Shri Dharmendra

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the National Water Resources Council (NWRC) has approved the new National Water Policy and if so, the salient features thereof;
- (b) whether the new policy sets the tone for creating a tariff mechanism for all kinds of water uses in the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) if so, whether this policy may override the constitutionally guaranteed rights of States and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the new policy envisages a National Framework law for water resources that will set general principals of water management and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) whether the end users have repeatedly demanded for the equitable distribution of water and the importance of efficiently using water and if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Union Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI HARISH RAWAT)

- (a) Yes, Madam. The National Water Resources Council at its sixth Meeting held at New Delhi on 28.12.2012 adopted the draft National Water Policy (2012) as per the deliberations. The Salient Features of the draft National Water Policy (2012) are Annexed.
- (b) The draft National Water Policy (2012) recommends setting up of a Water Regulatory Authority by each State which would fix and regulate the water tariff system and charges.
- (c) No, Madam. The Water Regulatory Authority is envisaged as an independent statutory body to be set up by the States themselves.
- (d) Yes, Madam. The draft National Water Policy (2012) envisages a National Water Framework Law as an umbrella statement of general principles governing the exercise of legislative and /or executive (or devolved) powers by the Centre, the States and the local governing bodies.
- (e) Yes, Madam.

The Government has launched a National Water Mission with the objective of 'conservation of water, minimizing wastage and ensuring its more equitable distribution both across and within States through integrated water resources development and management'. One of the goals of National Water Mission is 'increasing water use efficiency by 20%'.