

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:421
ANSWERED ON:25.04.2013
NATIONAL LEGAL FRAMEWORK ON WATER
Nirupam Shri Sanjay Brijkishorilal

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a majority of States has opposed the Government's proposal for evolving an overarching national legal framework of general principles on water;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether many States have submitted that the national legal framework will impinge on their constitutional right on water resources;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the reaction of the Government thereto including the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI HARISH RAWAT)

(a) to (e) A statement is laid on the table of the House

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. 421 TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 25.4.2013 REGARDING NATIONAL LEGAL FRAMEWORK ON WATER.

(a) to (d) The National Water Resources Council (NWRC) at its sixth meeting held on 28th December, 2012, based on the broader consensus that emerged amongst States, had adopted the National Water Policy (2012) containing the proposal for evolution of a National Water Framework Law (NWFL). During deliberations at the said NWRC meeting, a few States had opposed formulation of NWFL, while some of the States had expressed apprehension that the NWFL would encroach upon the States' constitutional jurisdiction.

It was suggested that such framework law could be in the form of a set of general guiding principles. However, after deliberations, on the basis of the opening remarks of the Prime Minister in this connection and subsequent clarification given by Union Minister of Water Resources, there was a broader consensus on the National Water Policy (2012).

(e) The Government had made it clear that the National Water Framework Law would not encroach upon the powers of the State Governments, that it would be drafted in such a manner that the rights and powers of the States would not be curtailed in any manner and that it would be finalized only after having threadbare deliberations.

The Ministry of Water Resources has constituted a Committee on 3rd July, 2012 under the Chairmanship of Dr. Y.K. Alagh, former Member, Planning Commission to draft a National Water Framework Law.