

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:838

ANSWERED ON:03.12.2015

Restructuring of CWC and CGWB

Ahlawat Smt. Santosh;Kcharge Shri Mallikarjun ;Saraswati Shri Sumedhanand;Sathyabama Smt. V.

**Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:**

- (a) the year of setting up the Central Water Commission (CWC) and Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) along with functions assigned to and performed by them since their inception;
- (b) whether the Government has recently constituted a committee to restructure the CWC and CGWB to encourage optimal development of water resources in the country;
- (c) if so, the details and the salient features thereof; and
- (d) whether the committee is likely to work on water resource planning, augmenting and budgeting in an integrated manner and long pending water dispute issues of different states and if so, the details thereof?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION (PROF. SANWAR LAL JAT)

(a) The Central Water Commission (erstwhile Central Waterways, Irrigation and Navigation Commission) was set up in the year 1945. In the year 1951, it was renamed as "Central Water and Power Commission" (CW & PC) after its merger with the Central Electricity Commission. Following the changes in the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, in the year 1974, water wing of CW & PC was separated as Central Water Commission (CWC), which continues till date. Presently, CWC is functioning as an attached office of Ministry of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation. CWC is presently assigned the general responsibility of initiating, coordinating and furthering in consultation with the State Governments concerned, schemes for the control, conservation and utilization of water resources in the respective States for the purpose of flood management, irrigation, drinking water supply and hydro power generation.

The Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) was set up in 1970 by renaming erstwhile Exploratory Tube well Organization. Subsequently, Ground Water Division of Geological Survey of India merged with it in 1972. The Board was placed under various ministries in the past and since 1982, it is functioning as sub-ordinate office of Ministry of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation. CGWB is currently assigned to address all the issues related to exploring ground water, its assessment, regime monitoring, augmentation and regulation.

(b) Yes, Madam.

(c) & (d) A Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. Mihir Shah, Ex-Member, Planning Commission was constituted by this Ministry in September, 2015 to undertake a detailed study and make suitable recommendations on restructuring of CWC and CGWB for integrated water resources management to ensure optimal development of the water resources in the country.

The 'Terms of Reference' of the Committee are as below:-

- i. To recommend suitable re-orientation and re-structuring of CWC and CGWB at the basin and sub-basin level.
  - ii. To assess the capacity requirement of CWC and CGWB to discharge all functions as envisaged for integrated water resource management.
  - iii. To prepare specific task, duties and responsibilities, to each of the two organizations so as to enable them to achieve the objectives to integrated water management, development, planning, water use efficiency and water budgeting.
  - iv. To assess the need for specific capacity building requirement among the staff of CWC and CGWB.
  - v. To recommend an ideal structure at basin/ sub-basin level of CWC and CGWB to discharge their duties to accomplish the above objectives.
  - vi. To assess the financial implications to achieve the objectives.
- The ToRs can be further modified if the Committee so feels and proposes.

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