

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:872

ANSWERED ON:28.04.2016

Water Conservation and Management

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

- (a) whether increasing demand of water for various purposes on account of growing population, industrialization and urbanization pose serious challenges of creating facilities for conservation and proper utilization of available water resources;
- (b) if so, whether the inter-linking of rivers is needed to provide water security, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has invited all sections of the society to work together for water conservation in the country;
- (d) if so, the details and the response thereof; and
- (e) whether the Government has any proposal to adopt water conservation technologies adopted by Israel and if so, the details in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION

(PROF. SANWAR LAL JAT)

- (a) Yes, Madam. The demand for water in the country has been increasing on account of increasing population, industrialization, urbanization etc. which has put a strain on the available water resources. Hence, there is a need for sustained efforts for water conservation, augmentation and water use efficiency etc.
- (b) The inter-linking of rivers has the potential for addressing the twin problems of water scarcity and flooding in the country. This Ministry has formulated a National Perspective Plan (NPP) for Water Resources Development envisaging inter-basin transfer of water. Further, the implementation of National Perspective Plan for water resources development would give benefits of approximately 35 million hectare of additional irrigation potential and 34000 mega watts (MW) hydro power generation apart from the incidental benefits of flood moderation, navigation, drinking and industrial water supply, fisheries, salinity and pollution control etc.
- (c) & (d) Recognizing the importance of involvement and cooperation of different stakeholders, the Government has invited various stakeholders viz. agencies of Central and State Governments, Non-Governmental Organisations, Panchayati Raj Institutions, experts in the water sector, general public etc. to work together for water conservation in the country through various programmes e.g. Jal Manthan, workshops/conferences etc. This Ministry has also launched Jal Kranti Abhiyan (2015-16 to 2017-18) in June 2015 in order to consolidate water conservation and management in the country through a holistic and integrated approach involving all stakeholders, making it a mass movement. The response from different stakeholders has been encouraging.
- (e) Yes, Madam. Israel was a partner country in India Water Week, 2016 held from 4-8 April, 2016. This Ministry has prepared a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for bilateral cooperation in Water Resources Management and Development with Israel and the Union Cabinet has approved the same.
