

International Seminar on "Water for Mankind"

*314. SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD:
SHRI M.V. CHANDRASEKHARA MURTHY:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether an international seminar on 'Water for mankind' was held in February, 1989:

(b) if so, the main points discussed therein; and

(c) the outline of solutions considered at the Seminar to the problems related to water management and the consequences of drought and such other natural calamities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI JANARDHAN POOJARY): (a) to (c). The seminar on 'Water for Mankind' was held on 6-7 February, 1989.

The seminar mainly discussed the broader aspects of water management related to organisation, data base, communication, health, irrigation technology and environment.

The consensus arrived at the seminar is given in the statement below:

STATEMENT

*6-7 February 1989 in New Delhi
National Drinking Water Mission*

The seminar was called to confront the French experience, systems, analysis in

water management with existing Indian experience. The seminar felt that water though renewable resource would be the most critical resource needed for development in the coming decade and should be given to top most priority in planning, programmes and activities in the country, indeed in the world, and all attempts should be made to protect the increasingly scarcely available resource.

ORGANISATION

The group acknowledges that in every country the water policy has to be regularly reviewed and has felt that today a national study is required on the organisational issues related to water. The study will focus on the organisational structures and their inter relationship at various levels of administration in the country. The group urged upon the Government to launch such a study immediately with the objective of developing an integrated approach towards water management.

DATA BASE:

It was felt that although sufficient data has been collected by different organisations, the collection system needs coordination and information should be made open. It has been recommended that there should be a centralised data base on water which should be made accessible to all agencies both Government and non-Government as well as to any member of the public so as to meet Central as well as Regional and local requirements. The data base should include the quantity, availability as well as quality of water and details of projects related to water. It should also project consumption pattern, demand projections and should be dynamic in nature.

COMMUNICATION:

The seminar strongly expressed unani-

mous consensus on highlighting the necessity to develop technics of mass communications/media, system on demystification of new technologies. The role of women has been found essential in water management, in drinking water agriculture and pollution management. The women should be involved in water committees in actual maintenance of the system and also in the planning of the women beneficiaries. For a communication strategy the target audience should be women. Various models should be tried and further developed suitably to different socio-geographical milieu.

WATER AND HEALTH:

It has been unanimously agreed upon that there is a need for identification of requirement of trained manpower in these areas on the one hand and on the other hand training activities with the rural, periurban and urban people on various aspects of all water management and health aspects of water. A close coordination between health, water supply and engineering, education sectors should be effected. To achieve health for all the emphasis should be preventive on a approach and priority to preventing the water pollution diseases. The water related diseases should also be tackled simultaneously.

WATER AND IRRIGATION:

It was agreed to recommend to launch a study of the possibilities of creation of further low cost irrigation potential. The emphasis should be laid on productivity of the water and of quality of distribution special programme study should be launched to organise a programme for saving and avoiding the waste of water. The Main objective should be to make people conscious about the cost of water.

TECHNOLOGY

The need to develop a system manage-

ment project in the development and use of technology has been emphasised and the following fields have been identified as Indian priorities.

- a) Control of pollution and depollution of aquifers.
 - Aquifer management and recharge
- b) Advanced technologies in drinking water treatment such as :
 - Ozonisation
 - Membranes
 - Technology for deflouridation of water. This should include low cost, village household technologies.
- c) Low cost sanitation and onsite disposal and treatment system.
- d) Advanced technologies in waste water treatment for recycling and reuse of water.
- e) Development of mechanical engineering aspects of water distribution, leak detections, computerised mapping.
- f) Use of non conventional energies (biomass, wind, tidal) and in particular solar photovoltaic energy.

WATER AND ENVIRONMENT

There should be study for development of a multidisciplinary effort to reduce the conflict between the user and the system and the conservation of the resources in order to maintain and equilibrium. Distribution of water should be taken up based on

that policy for prevention of industrial pollution. A study of the present state of industrial and urban pollution should immediately be launched and made public. The protection of the industrial spring spar and hydrothermal sources should be mandatory. There should be an approach of conservation in general.

In conclusion the inter-relationship, technical environmental and economical that arises in this field were stressed by all participants and justified the title of the seminar. The french participants were made aware of the sheer size of Indian water sector and the considerable potential for action. For their part, they will concentrate on the areas identified which seem to offer the best chances for complimentary cooperative R & D ventures on suitable technologies. It was felt desirable that the dialogue should not end here and suggested to have an informal gathering within three months to review the support which may come from the French side, and the priorities and practical steps on the Indian side for joint action in science, R & D, Joint training of required manpower and others.

Procurement of Engines for Pioneer Class Vessels Constructed by Hindustan Shipyard Limited

*316. SHRI BHATTAM SRIRAMA MURTY: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Hindustan Shipyard Limited had placed orders on a West German firm for main and auxiliary engines needed for the pioneer class vessels constructed by it;

(b) if so, the number of main and auxiliary engines procured and the total expenditure involved therein;

(c) whether Union Government had examined the possibility of procuring similar

machinery from soft currency areas; and

(d) the amount which would have been saved had these been procured from soft currency areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) and (b) 10 Nos, Main Engines were procured by Hindustan Shipyard Limited during the period 1971-76 at a total cost of Rs. 1154 lakhs from the West German firm, M/s. Blohm & Voss A.G. No auxiliary engines were purchased from this firm.

(c) and (d) Against Hindustan Shipyard Limited's first global enquiry in 1971 for purchase of main engines, no offer was received from the soft currency areas. However, in 1975 Government had considered the possibility of installation of Sulzer Engines manufactured in Poland in the series of pioneer class vessels under construction in Hindustan Shipyard Limited. As considerable design changes were involved resulting in additional expenditure and time over-run, this was not considered feasible.

It is not, therefore, possible to estimate whether any savings would have been there if the main Engines had been procured from soft currency areas.

Indian fishermen in Pakistani jails

*318. SHRI PRAKASH CHANDRA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of Indian fishermen are languishing in the Pakistani jails since long;

(b) if so, their number at present and since how long;

(c) whether any steps are being taken