

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:61
ANSWERED ON:21.07.2003
WATER CRISIS
SUDARSANA E.M. NATCHIAPPAN

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government are aware of the gravity of water crisis looming large over the country which is resulting in law and order and health problem;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps proposed by the Government to overcome the situation?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SMT. BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY)

(a) & (b) Government is aware of the gravity of severe regional & temporal shortages resulting due to uneven geographical distribution though India is considered rich in terms of annual rainfall & total water resources. Some instances of law & order problem due to water disputes have been observed.

(c) In order to overcome the situation, the Government has launched various programmes such as Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme for harnessing the water from natural resources and accelerating the creation of irrigation potential by early completion of ongoing schemes; Watershed Management Programme, Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme of the Ministry of Rural Development for artificial recharge of ground water and roof-top rainwater harvesting under the sector reform project, for which technical and financial assistance is provided to the State Governments and other implementing agencies. For meeting future requirements of the water, as a long term measure, National Water Development Agency has formulated National Perspective Plan for water resources development which envisages interlinking of Himalayan and peninsular rivers for transfer of water from surplus areas to water deficit areas.