

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:139
ANSWERED ON:21.07.2003
CONSERVATION OF WATER RESOURCES
HARIBHAU MAHALE

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) the role of Non-Governmental Organisations in water conservation; and
- (b) the funds allocated/released by the Government to Non- Governmental Organisations for the purpose?

Answer

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

(a) The Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs)/Voluntary Organisations have very important role to play in water conservation in view of the need for participatory approach to water resources management as laid down in National Water Policy (2002) which states as under:

"Management of the water resources for diverse uses should incorporate a participatory approach; by involving not only the various governmental agencies but also the users and other stakeholders, in an effective and decisive manner, in various aspects of planning, design, development and management of the water resources schemes. Necessary legal and institutional changes should be made at various levels for the purpose, duly ensuring appropriate role for women. Water Users' Associations and the local bodies such as municipalities and gram panchayats should particularly be involved in the operation, maintenance and management of water infrastructures/facilities at appropriate levels progressively, with a view to eventually transfer the management of such facilities to the user groups/local bodies".

(b) Ministry of Water Resources has been providing support to various NGOs in respect of activities related to mass awareness for water conservation. Water Conservation is one of the activities identified for the Fresh Water Year-2003 and a sum of Rs. 150 lakhs has specifically been earmarked for supporting NGOs for this purpose.