GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5403
ANSWERED ON:02.05.2005
CONVENTION OF WATER CONSERVATION
Thakkar Smt. Jayaben B.

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Convention was held on Water Conservation in Agriculture and Industrial Sector during 2003-04;

(b) if so, the recommendations made in the convention; and

(c) the recommendations were accepted and implemented by the Government?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES(SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV)

(a) Yes, Madam. The Tenth National Water Convention was held at Bhubaneshwar, Orissa during November 5-7, 2003. Conservation of Water in Agriculture and Industrial Sectors was one of the themes of the Convention.

(b) The recommendations of the Convention are given at Annex.

(c) The recommendations have been sent to various State Governments for necessary follow up actions.

ANNEX
(Annex to Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 5403 for answer on 2.5.2005)

Recommendations of the Tenth National Water Convention − 2003 held at Bhubaneswar during November 5-7, 2003.

1 . Appropriate River Basin Organisations should be established for integrated water resources development and management (IWRDM). The issues involved therein should be addressed at three levels viz., National, Basin and Watershed.

2. Augmentation and conservation of Water through large and small storage reservoirs, rainwater harvesting, ground water recharge, integrated watershed development, recycling and reuse of waste water, conjunctive use of surface and ground water, reclamation of waterlogged and saline areas are major strategies to be adopted in an integrated manner at the river basin level.

3. Demand side management in the agricultural, industrial and domestic sectors by way of judicious water conservation coupled with supply side management can mainly meet the future water demands. Regular water auditing should be carried out by all the users and water conservation measures should be evolved and adopted.

4 . All feasible sources of water viz. locally conserved rainwater, ground water, surface water resources including lakes and ponds should be judiciously used in conjunction with each other and with the involvement of all the stakeholders.

5. Integrated water resources management calls for the adoption of modern techniques. Be it the integrated operation of a system of reservoirs or putting in place decision support systems for river basins or the simple planning and implementation of ground water recharge systems at the rural level, studies have shown that modern techniques could be effectively used.

6. Irrigation sector is the major consumer of the water at present. Competing demands from other sectors like urban water supply and industries will increase in the future. Efficiency improvement and adoption of suitable cropping pattern including water application methods will go a long way in conserving available water resources for extension of irrigation or making it available for other priority uses.

7. Areas facing water shortage at present are likely to come under much more serious water stress. Interbasin transfer of water within the State as well as inter State will become essential and viable for meeting the conflicting demands of water in the water short areas alongwith associated other benefits.

8 . Women play an important role in use of water and creation of awareness amongst them on water conservation needs is to be emphasized.

9. Coastal issues must be properly linked with the integrated development and management of water resources.

10. Age old village tanks and systems that have lost their storage capacities and utility should be revived. All the encroachments in water spread areas of tanks need to be checked and social forestry activity be developed in the periphery or shorelines of tanks so as to avoid further encroachments.

11. Industries and Municipal bodies should ensure tertiary treatment of effluents so as to maintain the quality of water bodies at desired level.

12. Participatory Irrigation Management will go a long way in increasing the efficiency of the irrigation systems significantly. Some states have already enacted laws for establishment of Farmers' Associations for managing part of the irrigation systems with active support of the Governments. The performance of the Farmers' Association should be studied and adopted by other States.

13. Paradigm shift in approach, policy changes, enactment and implementation of suitable legal instruments are required.

14. Suitable pricing of water for recovery of O&M charges will have to be effected for sustainability.

15. IWRDM being complex issue, capacity building in the field is essential. Organizations concerned need to provide appropriate training facilities.