

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
WATER RESOURCES  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:74

ANSWERED ON:28.11.2005

WORLD BANK REPORT ON WATER SECTOR

Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji;Kharventhan Shri Salarapatty Kuppusamy

**Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "India faces a turbulent water future: World Bank" appearing in The Hindu dated October 02, 2005;
- (b) if so, whether the Government has studied the World Bank draft report in this regard;
- (c) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (d) whether the World Bank proposes to increase its loans to India for the water sector, including water resource management and irrigation;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the steps taken by the Government for proper utilization of loan to bring improvement in the water sector?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR HEAVY INDUSTRIES, PUBLIC ENTERPRISES AND WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV)

(a) to (f) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (f) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.74 FOR ANSWER ON 28.11.2005.

(a) to (c) Yes Sir. The Government is aware of the draft Report titled "India's Water Economy: Bracing for a Turbulent Future" prepared by Mr. John Briscoe of the World Bank. The report is based on study conducted by the World Bank on its own. The report in general discusses various aspects of water resources development and management in India and broadly covers the issues related to:

- i. adjusting to the needs of a changing India;
- ii. adjusting to scarcity and greater variability;
- iii. dealing with growing conflicts;
- iv. maintaining and renewing existing infrastructure;
- v. building infrastructure in under-served areas and for under-served public purposes;
- vi. making the transition from development to management and development;
- vii. revitalizing the machinery of government to deal with the turbulent water future ; and
- viii. charting a prioritized, sequenced, pragmatic path for making improvements.

Most of issues are duly addressed in the National Water Policy and appropriate actions are taken in light of the present policies of the Union and State Governments.

(d) & (e) The Country Director, World Bank has indicated about enhancement of fund allocation by World Bank for water resources projects from present level of US \$ 200 million per year to about US \$ 800 million per year.

(f) Implementing agencies i.e., the State Governments are impressed upon for timely completion of the externally funded projects as per the approved plan and the progress is regularly monitored to ensure proper utilization of the loan assistance.