

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:783
ANSWERED ON:12.07.2004
SCARCITY OF WATER
Kalmadi Shri Suresh

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a recent study by FAO (U.N.) has predicted severe water shortage in developing countries;
- (b) if so, whether according to the report one out of every five developing countries will face acute water scarcity;
- (c) if so, whether India participated in the World Water Forum conclave held in Kyoto during March, 2003; and
- (d) if so, details of deliberations held at the conclave?

Answer

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

(a) In the study entitled 'Unlocking the Water Potential of Agriculture', by FAO (UN) and published on the eve of the Third World Water Forum in Kyoto, it is stated inter-alia that farmers in developing countries will face increasing competition for scarce freshwater resources from industry and domestic users. It further states that while there is no global water crises, the serious water and food security problems in some developing countries and regions need to be urgently addressed.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir. An Indian delegation led by Shri Arjun Charan Sethi, the then Minister of Water Resources participated in the Third World Water Forum held in Osaka, Shiga and Kyoto, Japan during March, 2003.

(d) The 3rd World Water Forum met during March 16-23, 2003 in Kyoto, Osaka and Shiga, Japan. On this occasion, two Ministerial meetings, namely Irrigation Ministers' meet on "Water Food and Agriculture" and main Ministerial Conference were organized on March 21 and March 22-23, 2003 respectively.

During the ministerial meeting on "Water, Food and Agriculture", a presentation was made by Secretary (WR) highlighting its achievements in the field of agriculture, water resources development and management alongwith action which needs to be taken to solve agriculture water issues in our country. A Ministerial declaration, which was earlier negotiated after prolonged discussions by senior officers, was adopted on 21st March, 2003. It outlines a plan for action to modernize and improve agriculture water use, increase water productivity, promote better governance, consider environmental aspects, undertake research and development and foster international cooperation.

In the main ministerial declaration adopted in the final plenary session on 23rd March, declaration was made on General Policy, Water Resources Management and Benefit Sharing, Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation, Water for Food and Rural Development, Water Pollution Prevention and Ecosystem Conservation and Disaster Mitigation and Risk Management.

One of the five sub-group sessions of the ministerial conference was chaired by the then Minister of Water Resources where the issue of "Water Resources Management and Benefit Sharing" was discussed. This session was attended by ministers/representatives of 62 countries and eight International Organizations.

In this sub-group meeting, the need to develop dams for irrigation, storages, flood control and hydro-electric energy with due consideration to environmental and social impact as well as sound resettlement plans was brought out. It also underscored the need for international financial assistance for capacity building & technology transfer. It also urged the need for good governance and confidence-building measures and emphasized the requirement to increase the use of innovative and appropriate technologies such as desalination and re-use of treated water.

Apart from the Senior Officials' Meetings for finalization of Draft Declaration and the Ministerial Conference in which the Declarations were adopted, there were many Sessions, some of them running parallel, organized at Kyoto, Shiga and Osaka.