

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:112
ANSWERED ON:31.07.2006
WATER QUALITY ASSESSMENT AUTHORITY
Reddy Shri Mekapati Rajamohan

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has constituted a Water Quality Assessment Authority to oversee the water related issues; and
(b) if so, the achievements made by the authority so far?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ)

- (a) & (b) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) & (b) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. 112 TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 31.07.2006 REGARDING WATER QUALITY ASSESSMENT AUTHORITY

(a) Yes, Sir. The Government has constituted Water Quality Assessment Authority (WQAA) with effect from 29th May, 2001 through Ministry of Environment & Forests Extra-ordinary Gazette Notification dated 22.6.2001.

- (b) The main achievements made by the Authority so far are as follows:

On the basis of the assigned functions, WQAA made review of water quality related activity in the country for improvement in this regard. The WQAA constituted an Expert Group on Water Quality Monitoring System for suggestions/recommendations for review of monitoring programme for uniformity in the monitoring systems. Also a Task Force was constituted to recommend measure for optimum Water Quality Observation Network and coordinated data collection and dissemination system. On the basis of the recommendation of the Expert Group and Task Force, Ministry of Environment & Forests (MoEF) has formulated the Uniform Protocol on Water Quality Monitoring and a Gazette Notification on Uniform Monitoring Protocol was published by MoEF in June, 2005 which was circulated to all the states and concerned central agencies for implementation.

State Level Water Quality Review Committees have been constituted in 34 States/UTs to coordinate works assigned to them in respect of Water Quality such as Water Quality Monitoring Network, identification of problem areas. The WQAA also decided that while approving water quality related projects, holistic view about water quality management aspect need to be adopted and considered for funding. Through the Authority, interaction among all the states and the concerned central agencies was organized and role of water quality review committees towards water quality management, identification of problem areas and hot spots, evaluation of existing system of monitoring network and implementation of awareness and graded training were emphasized. On the basic studies about conservation of eco system, the WQAA has got a study made on minimum flow of rivers through a Working Group.

The authority reviews of water quality related matters on a continuous basis as per the objective set for it.