

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
WATER RESOURCES  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2660

ANSWERED ON:11.12.2006

UNDP HDR REPORT

Madhwaraj Smt. Manorama

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

- (a) Whether Human Development Report (HDR) 2006 released recently by the United Nation Development Project has highlighted the disparities in distribution of water over regions and between social groups in India;
- (b) If so, the details thereof indicating the number of families deprived of the quantum of water mandated by UNDP, HDR 2006;
- (c) Whether the Government proposes to introduce a differential user charges for water where per unit tariff goes up with the level for consumption; and
- (d) If so, the details thereof ?

**Answer**

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

(a)&(b) The issue of disparities of water over region and between social groups has been discussed in the first chapter of the recently released UNDP Human Development Report 2006 (HDR 2006). In this regard, example from India has been quoted. The Report inter alia states that in India caste rules that govern access to water have weakened. The HDR 2006 further states that some 1.1 billion people in the developing world do not have access to a minimal amount of clean water. Coverage rates are stated to be the lowest in Sub-Saharan Africa, but most people without clean water live in Asia and deprivation of sanitation is even more widespread. Specific numbers of deprived families in India is not indicated in the Report.

(c)&(d) The rates for user charges for water services are fixed by the respective State Governments. The Ministry of Water Resources has no proposal to introduce differential user charges.