

of riding quality, reconstruction/rehabilitation of weak and narrow bridges, construction of bypasses etc.

(c) Development of National Highways is a continuous process and efforts are made to accommodate all such requests from State Governments based in *inter-se* priorities of projects and overall availability of resources.

Constitution of the National Water Resources Council

† *227. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH:

SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had in the recent past constituted a National Water Resources Council;

(b) if so, when this Council was constituted togetherwith the decisions taken so far by the Council regarding availability of water; and

(c) the action taken so far by Government to implement these decision?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURECS (SHRI ARJUN SETHI): (a) to (c) National Water Resources Council (NWRC) was set up by the Government of India on 10th March, 1983 as a national Apex body with Prime Minister as the Chairman, Union Minister of Water Resources as Vice-Chairman, and concerned Union Ministers, Chief Minister of State Governments and Administrators/Lt. Governors of the Union Territories as Members with Secretary, Minister of Water Resources as the Secretary of the Council.

The first meeting of NWRC was held on 30th October 1985. The Council discussed the importance of Water Resources and its optimal development for the economic well-being of the country and set up a Group consisting of Union Minister of Water Resources (Chairman), Union Ministers of Agriculture, Transport and Energy and the Minister of State for Environment and Forests, Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh (Members), with Secretary, Union Minister of Water Resources, as Secretary to prepare a National Water Policy document, having regard to the issues outlined in the agenda paper and the deliberations held during the meeting.

The second meeting of the NWRC was held on 9th September, 1987 in which the draft National Water Policy document prepared by the Group was

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

[8th August, 2000]

RAJYA SABHA

considered and adopted unanimously.

Government of India had set up a National Water Board in September, 1990 to over see and review the implementation of National Water Policy, 1987. As a follow up of implementation of a National Water Policy, 1987 Ministry of Water Resources had issued the following guidelines:

Guidelines for the preparation of River Basin Master Plan-1990;

Integration of Drinking Water Supply System-1991;

Planning Conjunctive use of Surface and Ground Water of Irrigation Projects-1994;

Submission, Appraisal and Clearance of Irrigation and Multi-purpose Projects-1996;

Setting up a Human Resources Development Board to go into formulation of training programme for the in-service personnel-1998;

Environmental Monitoring of Water Resources Projects-1998; and

Various aspects relating to Dam Safety.

The third meeting of National Water Resources Council held on 6th February 1996 considered a number of policy documents prepared by the National Water Board.

The fourth meeting of the National Water Resources Council was held on 7.7.2000 to consider the updated draft National Water Policy (1998) and the National Policy Guidelines for Water Allocation Amongst States.

The deliberations on the draft National Water Policy (1998) established a broad consensus among the States on most of the issues contained in the proposed policy. However, in order to achieve greater convergence and agreement on some contentious issues, the Council decided to constitute a Working group including Minister of all the States/UTs under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Minister of Water Resources. The Council also decided that the draft National Policy Guidelines for Water Allocation amongst States be first considered by the Working Group to arrive at a consensus.

Methodology for Training Panchayats in Maharashtra

*228. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state: