

**Inclusion of water in concurrent list**

\* 454. SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ashok Chawla Committee, appointed by the Prime Minister, to look into water scenario of the country, has suggested to bring water from the State List to the Concurrent List;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this recommendation, if accepted by Government, would lead to more centralization and creation of problems in water management at local level in the States; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and Governments reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) and (b) The Cabinet Secretariat constituted a Committee on Allocation of Natural Resources (CANR) under the chairmanship of Shri Ashok Chawla vide order dated 31st January, 2011.

The terms of reference the Committee are given in the Statement-I (*See below*).

The Committee submitted its report on 31st May, 2011. The major recommendations of the Committee are given in the Statement-II (*See below*).

(c) and (d) The recommendations of CANR have been referred to Group of Ministers.

***Statement-I***

*The terms of reference of the committee on allocation of  
natural resources (CANR) are as follows*

- i. To identify major natural resources which are allotted/allocated/ distributed by the Government of India and the institutional framework for utilization of such resources;
- ii. To examine the efficacy and suitability of the existing legal and regulatory framework and rules and procedures in this regard;

- iii. To suggest measures to optimize the benefits of such utilization for all stakeholders, while ensuring sustainability of the resources;
- iv. To suggest measures for promoting transparency and enhancing effectiveness in allocation, pricing and utilization of these resources;
- v. To suggest changes in the legal, institutional and regulatory framework to implement the above recommendations; and
- vi. Any other issue(s) related to the above.

***Statement-II***

*Major recommendations of the committee on allocation of  
natural resources (CANR) on water*

- (i) The Committee sees an urgent need to have a comprehensive national legislation on water. This can be either done through bringing water under the Concurrent List and then framing the appropriate legislation; or, by obtaining consensus from a majority of the States that such a “framework law” is necessary and desirable as a Union enactment. The legal options in this regard need to be examined by the Ministry of Water Resources. The national legislation should clarify a common position on a number of issues, *e.g.*, need to consider all water resources as a conjunctive, unified whole; water as a common property resource; principles of allocations and pricing and so on. The framework legislation should recognize that pollution also leads to conjunctive use of water, which makes the resource unusable for other purposes.
- (ii) In the meantime, the Committee recommends amending the River Boards’ Act, 1956 and include groundwater in its ambit, while assigning the River Boards Act (RBA) a managerial role in management of water resources. The process of seeking political consensus from States for making the Act more effective should be taken up pro-actively by the Union Government Ministry of Water Resources.
- (iii) The Committee recommends aquifer level mapping, along with hydro-geological studies, and pilot projects to be initiated in different settings to address the problems of groundwater management urgently. Each of these pilots should cover an area of 5,000 to 10,000 hectares or

boundaries of an aquifer, whichever is less. Comprehensive programmes of aquifer management can be built up based on these studies, in respect of these pilots. For better results, these pilots should be designed so that they converge seamlessly into ongoing schemes like the NREGA, IWMP, and ongoing drinking water and sanitation projects. The pilots should take into account community awareness and participation, self-regulation of groundwater enhancement of coverage of water saving methods, including changes in cropping pattern and so on.

- (iv) Finally, the Committee suggests that the focus on command area management should be restored and merger of Command Area Development (CAD) programmes with the AIBP schemes can be contemplated in this regard.

**Fair and remunerative price for sugarcane**

\* 455. SHRI NATUJI HALAJI THAKOR : Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government takes into consideration the different climatic/geographical/socio-economic conditions prevailing in the States while calculating/fixing Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) for sugarcane;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the parameters on the basis of which the calculation of FRP for the sugarcane crushing season 2010-11 was fixed, along with the names of the institutions involved in finalizing the parameters and fixing the FRP; and

(d) the details of the input cost for cultivation of sugarcane along with the data used for calculation of FRP during 2010-11?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (PROF. K.V. THOMAS) : (a) and (b) The Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) at the behest of the Central Government recommends Fair & Remunerative Price (FRP) for sugarcane. While undertaking the exercise, the Commission covers broadly the major sugarcane growing states from both tropical and sub-tropical regions of the country. Under the