

National Water Policy which provides subsidy to the poor and at the same time emphasizes the need for subjecting water to allocation and pricing on economic principles;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that proposed Policy emphasizes the need for a comprehensive legislation for optimum development of Inter-State rivers and river valleys to facilitate inter-State coordination taking river basin/sub-basin, as a unit;

(d) whether Government has sought the opinion of State Governments in this regard; and

(e) if so, their reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Draft National Water Policy (2012) *inter-alia* recommends that for the pre-emptive and high priority uses of water for sustaining life and ecosystem for ensuring food security and supporting livelihood for the poor, the principle of differential pricing may have to be retained. Over and above these uses, water should increasingly be subjected to allocation and pricing on economic principles.

(c) Yes, Sir. The Draft National Water Policy (2012) recommends that there is a need for comprehensive legislation for optimum development of inter-State rivers and river valleys to facilitate inter-State coordination ensuring scientific planning of land and water resources taking basin/sub-basin as unit with unified perspectives of water in all its forms (including precipitation, soil moisture, ground and surface water) and ensuring holistic and balanced development of both the catchment and the command areas.

(d) and (e) The Draft National Water Policy (2012) was circulated amongst all States/UTs for comments. This Policy, after some modifications, was considered by the National Water Board comprising of Chief Secretaries of all States and Secretaries of related Union Ministries at its Meeting held on 7th June, 2012. The Draft National Water Policy (2012) has been further revised as per deliberations in the National Water Board meeting.

Water level in major reservoirs

463. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the water level in 84 major reservoirs crucial for irrigation and power generation is running below the levels of last year;

- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that the above reservoirs are 20 per cent full compared to 25 per cent at this time in 2011;
- (d) whether the States have been asked to give preference to drinking water and irrigation supply; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES
(SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) As informed by Central Water Commission (CWC) which monitors the live storage status of 84 important reservoirs spread across the country on weekly basis, the live storage in these reservoirs as on 02.08.2012 was 30% of their total live storage capacity and 46% during the corresponding period in the year 2011.

(d) and (e) Keeping in view the possibility of low rainfall and low storage in reservoirs, and the need to change cropping pattern in the Kharif season, the States/ Union Territories have been advised to use available water judiciously, give priority to drinking water supply and irrigation and make use of ground water to the extent possible.

Drying UP of rivers

†464. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of such rivers in the country which have dried up during the last few years;
- (b) whether Government has prepared any policy to revive these rivers;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES
(SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) Analysis of flow data carried out by Central Water Commission indicates that the flow in the rivers varies from years primarily due to variations in the rainfall in the catchment area. However, the analysis of available river flow data does not indicate drying up of any river during the last few years.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.