

1	2	3	4
3.	Bahraich, Ballia, Ghazipur (6)	MTU 7029	0.281
4.	Bahraich, Gorakhpur, Ghazipur (3)	Kalanamak	0.369
5.	Bahraich, Ballia, Ghazipur (4)	MTU 1001/Vijeta	0.397
6.	Lakhimpur-Kheri, Bahraich, Ballia (13)	PHB 71	0.438
7.	Lakhimpur-Kheri, Bahraich (4)	NDR - 359	0.448
8.	Bahraich, Gorakhpur, Ballia, Ghazipur (15)	BPT 5204	0.461
9.	Lakhimpur-Kheri, Bahraich (9)	Indraasan	0.495
10.	Lakhimpur-Kheri, Gorakhpur, Ballia, Ghazipur (6)	Swarana sub-1	0.552
11.	Ballia (1)	Kasturi	0.555
12.	Lakhimpur-Kheri, Bahraich, Gorakhpur, Ballia, Ghazipur (13)	Sarjoo - 52	0.556
13.	Lakhimpur-Kheri, Bahraich, Ballia, Ghazipur (10)	Arize - 6444	0.592
14.	Lakhimpur-Kheri, Bahraich, Ballia, Ghazipur (5)	BPT 3291	0.637
15.	Bahraich (1)	Varadhan	0.694
16.	Lakhimpur-Kheri, Bahraich, Ghazipur (3)	Improved Pusa Basmati IPB-1	0.774
17.	Ballia (1)	Sugandha - 4 Pusa 1121	0.932

*SE: Standard Error

Inter-linking of rivers for better distribution of water

†4329. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to implement any new National Water

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Policy including the policy of inter-linking of rivers for better distribution of water and checking its misuse;

(b) if so, the details thereof including the role of State Governments in this regard;

(c) the decision of the Supreme Court on the policy of inter-linking the rivers and Government's response thereon; and

(d) time required to formulate and implement the new National Water Policy?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) and (b) Government of India has evolved the National Water Policy (2012) to meet the present challenges in the water sector. The salient features of the National Water Policy (2012) are given in the Statement (*See below*).

State Governments were actively involved while drafting the Policy. The National Water Board comprising of Chief Secretaries of all the States and Secretaries of related Union Ministries considered the draft National Water Policy (2012) at its Meeting held on 7th June, 2012. Thereafter, the National Water Resources Council with Chief Ministers of all States as Members, based on broader consensus that emerged among States, adopted the National Water Policy (2012) at its sixth meeting held on 28th December, 2012.

There is no proposal at present for a separate Interlinking River Policy. However, the National Water Policy (2012) stipulates that inter basin transfers of water should be considered on the basis of merits-of each case after evaluating the environmental, economic and-social impacts of such transfers.

(c) The Hon'ble Supreme Court in its Order dated 27.02.2012 has directed the Union of India and particularly the Ministry of Water Resources to constitute a Committee to be called 'Special Committee for Inter-Linking of Rivers'. Accordingly, the nominations from the States involved in the Inter-linking of rivers have been called for constitution of the Committee.

(d) The National Water Policy (2012) was adopted by the National Water Resources Council (NWRC) at its sixth Meeting held on 28.12.2012.

The National Water Policy, 2012 has made several recommendations for conservation, development and management of Water Resources in the country. Implementation of various recommendations would require different time periods. Implementation of the policy also requires the active co-operation and support of the States. Accordingly the National Water Policy, 2012 has been forwarded to all the States/Union Territories and the concerned Ministries / Departments of Central Government for appropriate action.

Statement

Salient features of national water policy (2012)

1. Emphasis on the need for a national water framework law, comprehensive legislation for optimum development of inter-State rivers and river valleys.
2. Water, after meeting the pre-emptive needs for safe drinking water and sanitation, achieving food security, supporting poor people dependent on agriculture for their livelihood and high priority allocation for minimum eco-system needs, be treated as economic good so as to promote its conservation and efficient use.
3. Ecological needs of the river should be determined recognizing that river flows are characterized by low or no flows, small floods (freshets), large floods and flow variability and should accommodate development needs. A portion of river flows should be kept aside to meet ecological needs ensuring that the proportional low and high flow releases correspond in time closely to the natural flow regime.
4. Adaptation strategies in view of climate change for designing and management of water resources structures and review of acceptability criteria has been emphasized.
5. A system to evolve benchmarks for water uses for different purposes, i.e., water footprints, and water auditing be developed to ensure efficient use of water. Project financing has been suggested as a tool to incentivize efficient and economic use of water.

6. Setting up of Water Regulatory Authority has been recommended. Incentivization of recycle and re-use has been recommended.
7. Water Users Associations should be given statutory powers to collect and retain a portion of water charges, manage the volumetric quantum of water allotted to them and maintain the distribution system in their jurisdiction.
8. Removal of large disparity in stipulations for water supply in urban areas and in rural areas has been recommended.
9. Water resources projects and services should be managed with community participation. Wherever the State Governments or local governing bodies so decide, the private sector can be encouraged to become a service provider in public private partnership model to meet agreed terms of service delivery, including penalties for failure.
10. Adequate grants to the States to update technology, design practices, planning and management practices, preparation of annual water balances and accounts for the site and basin, preparation of hydrologic balances for water systems, and benchmarking and performance evaluation.

Recharge of groundwater

†4330. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is contemplating upon or proposes to formulate any scheme to recharge groundwater;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the groundwater level is falling at an alarming rate in various parts of the country thereby creating drinking water crisis in those areas; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.