

New water policy

149. SHRI K.C. TYAGI:

SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a new water policy is needed to solve all the problems associated with country's river water;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether it is also a fact that a National Water Policy was formulated a few years back to solve the water problems; and

(d) if so, when the policy was formulated and the schemes to be implemented to solve the problems under the said policy along with the date of their implementation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION (SHRI SANWAR LAL JAT): (a) to (d) The National Water Policy is needed to take cognizance of the existing situation, to propose a framework for creation of a system of laws and institutions and for a plan of action with a unified national perspective. 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 in December, 2012.

The National Water Policy (2012) has made several recommendations for conservation, development and management of water resources in the country. The salient features of the National Water Policy 2012 are need for National Water Framework law; meeting the ecological needs of the rivers, adaptation to climate change, benchmarks for water uses for different purposes, setting up of a Water Regulatory Authority and promotion of community participation in management of water resources projects.

Implementation of various recommendations would require different time periods. It 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.

Protection of ground water by National Green Tribunal

150. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Green Tribunal is successfully protecting ground water in the country;