

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;

(b) if so, the details thereof so far, State-wise including Telangana and the amount spent during the last two years to stop misusing ground water in the country; and

(c) the role of NGOs and other private players in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION (SHRI SANWAR LAL JAT): (a) to (c) The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has been established under the National Green Tribunal Act, 2010 for effective and expeditious disposal of cases relating to environmental protection and conservation of forests and other national resources including ground water, enforcement of any legal right relating to environment and giving relief and compensation for damages to persons and property and for matters connected therewith.

At present, there are 30 cases being dealt with at NGT wherein Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) is one of the respondents. All these cases have been filed by Non-Government Organisations/Voluntary Organisations/NGT Bar Associations/Companies or individuals.

Scheme for Ganga rejuvenation

†151. DR. ANIL KUMAR SAHANI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has made any scheme for Ganga rejuvenation;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time limit for Ganga rejuvenation and the details of State's participation therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION (SHRI SANWAR LAL JAT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) New initiatives under "Namami Gange" approaches Ganga Rejuvenation by consolidating the existing ongoing efforts and planning for integrated and comprehensive action plan recognizing the multi-sectoral, multi-disciplinary challenges of Ganga rejuvenation and need for collaborative action at different levels. Incorporating the existing projects under the NGRBA, the Ganga rejuvenation plan provides for 'Short-term' (3 years), 'Medium-term' (5 years) and 'Long-term' (10 years and more) action

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.