

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES,
RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4106
ANSWERED ON 10.08.2017

PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION IN WATER RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

4106. SHRI RADHESHYAM BISWAS

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

- (a) whether the Government is considering to encourage private sector participation in planning, development and management of water resource projects in the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether any feasibility study has been conducted by the Government regarding the costs of such participatory efforts and if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether the Government is considering a special plan for drought prone areas and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION

(DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN)

(a) & (b) Water being a State subject, measures including management and distribution of water resources are taken by the respective State Governments. The Central Government supplements the efforts of the State Governments by providing technical and financial assistance through various schemes / programmes.

State Governments are empowered to make regulations on water, water supplies, irrigation and canals, drainage and embankments, water storage and water power. The State Governments take necessary steps for efficient management / distribution of water resources which, inter-alia, include inviting private investment in infrastructure projects, such as water supply, sewerage, etc.

The National Water Policy, 2012, inter-alia, stipulates that water resources projects and services should be managed with community participation. For improved service delivery on sustainable basis, the State Governments / urban local bodies may associate private sector in public private partnership mode. In this process, the prices and service standards would be subjected to regulatory control, with penalties for failure, as well as full accountability to democratically elected local bodies.

(c) Central Government has launched Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) during the year 2015. Under Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana-Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (PMKSY-AIBP), 99 ongoing projects have been identified in consultations with the States for completion in phases by December, 2019. Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP) is given priority under PMKSY. Under PMKSY-AIBP, enhanced funding is provided in ratio of 60 (Centre): 40 (State) for projects under DPAP as compared to general area under PMKSY-AIBP as per guidelines of the scheme.

The Central Government is taking up on priority the implementation of Interlinking of Rivers project which aims to transfer 170 billion cubic metre (BCM) of water from surplus to deficit areas, create an additional irrigation potential of approximately 35 million hectare, apart from the incidental benefits of flood moderation, navigation, drinking and industrial water supply, fisheries, salinity and pollution control etc.
