

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES,
RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. †1642
ANSWERED ON 28.12.2017

NATIONAL WATER TASK FORCE

†1642. SHRI RAM CHARAN BOHRA

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to establish National Water Task Force separately at national level for compliance of inter-State water agreements;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, whether the Government proposes to establish the task force in future and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) to (c) There is no proposal under consideration of the Central Government to establish National Water Task Force separately at national level for compliance of inter-State water agreements. However, the mechanism for settlement of inter-state river water disputes is available in the form of Inter State River Water Disputes Act, 1956. In order to further streamline the adjudication of inter-State river water disputes, the Inter-State River Water Disputes (Amendment) Bill, 2017 was introduced in Lok Sabha by the Minister for WR, RD & GR on 14.03.2017. The Bill envisages to constitute a standalone Tribunal with permanent establishment and permanent office space and infrastructure so as to obviate with the need to set up a separate tribunal for each water dispute which is invariably a time-consuming process. The proposed amendments in the Bill will speed up the adjudication of water disputes referred to it. The Bill was referred by the Speaker, Lok Sabha to the Standing Committee on Water Resources for examination on 25.05.2017. The Standing Committee submitted its recommendation on the Bill vide Lok Sabha Secretariat letter dated 11.08.2017 in the form of 'Nineteenth Report of Standing Committee on Water Resources on The Inter-State River Water Disputes (Amendment) Bill, 2017'. The Officials Amendments on the basis of the recommendations have been drafted by the Ministry and submitted to Ministry of Law & Justice for legal vetting.