

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES,
RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 6334
ANSWERED ON 05.04.2018

NATIONAL WATER USAGE CHARGE POLICY

6334. SHRIMATI DARSHANA VIKRAM JARDOSH

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

- (a) the current status of setting up of Water Regulatory Authority in the country, State-wise;
- (b) the updated status of the action taken by the Union Government in coordination with the State Governments to frame a special national water usage charge policy for various kinds of water usages; and
- (c) the time by which such a policy is expected to be framed?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) The National Water Policy, 2012, inter-alia, recommended setting up of an independent statutory Water Regulatory Authority by each State to fix and regulate the water tariff system. National Water Policy, 2012 was forwarded to all State Governments / Union Territories for appropriate action.

Water being a State Subject, the State Governments have to set up Water Regulatory Authorities in their respective States. Current status of setting up of Water Regulatory Authorities as received from the States is at **Annexure**.

(b) There is no proposal to frame a special national water usage charge policy under consideration of Central Government.

However, National Water Policy, 2012, inter-alia, suggests various measures with respect to water pricing. These are as under:

- Pricing of water should ensure its efficient use and reward conservation. Equitable access to water for all and its fair pricing, for drinking and other uses such as sanitation, agricultural and industrial, should be arrived at through independent statutory Water Regulatory Authority, set up by each State, after wide ranging consultation with all stakeholders.

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- In order to meet equity, efficiency and economic principles, the water charges should preferably / as a rule be determined on volumetric basis. Such charges should be reviewed periodically.
 - The principle of differential pricing may be retained for the pre-emptive uses of water for drinking and sanitation; and high priority allocation for ensuring food security and supporting livelihood for the poor. Available water, after meeting the above needs, should increasingly be subjected to allocation and pricing on economic principles so that water is not wasted in unnecessary uses and could be utilized more gainfully.
 - Water Users Associations (WUAs) 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. WUAs should be given the freedom to fix rates subject to floor rates determined by WRAs.
 - Urban water supply and sewage treatment schemes should be integrated and executed simultaneously. Water supply bills should include sewerage charges.
- (c) Does not arise in view of the reply to part (b) above.

Annexure referred to in reply to part (a) of Unstarred Q.No. 6334 to be answered in Lok Sabha on 05.04.2018 regarding “National Water Usage Charge Policy”.

Status of the setting up of Water Regulatory Authorities as received from the State Governments

Sl.No.	State/UT	Status of Water Regulatory Authority
1.	Bihar	Setting up of Water Regulatory Authority in Bihar is under consideration
2.	Gujarat	The process of formation of Gujarat Water Regulatory Authority has been initiated by the State Government and the same was notified on 14.02.2016.
3.	Haryana	The process for setting up of Haryana Water Resources Regulatory Authority Act " is under action.
4.	Himachal Pradesh	No Water Regulatory Authority has been formed in Himachal Pradesh
5.	Jammu & Kashmir	The Water Resources Regulatory Authority has been established vide SRO 339 of 2012 dated 15.10.2012 in terms of the J&K State Water Resources (Regulation and Management) Act, 2010 and the same is functional as on date.
6.	Jharkhand	Water Regulatory Authority has been notified. Appointment of its members is in progress.
7.	Maharashtra	The Government of Maharashtra has established Maharashtra Water Resources Regulatory Authority in Mumbai on 12.08.2005 under Maharashtra Water Resources Regulatory Authority Act, 2005
8.	Punjab	There is no Water Regulatory Authority in the State of Punjab. However, Directorate of Ground water Management has been created to look after the various aspects of water usages.
9.	Rajasthan	The Rajasthan River basin and Water Resources Planning Authority has started functioning.
10.	Tripura	Water Regulatory Authority is not yet formed.
11.	Uttar Pradesh	The Uttar Pradesh Water Management & Regulatory Commission (UPWaMReC) Act- 2014 has been passed by Uttar Pradesh Legislature and assented to by the Governor on 04.03.2014 for setting up Water Regulatory Authority in Uttar Pradesh State.