

Manifeatures of Nationall Water Policy

The draft National Water Policy emphasises its need because of water being a prime natural resource, a basic human need and a precious national asset. It is stated that water as a resource is one and indivisible - rainfall, river, surface ponds, lakes, and ground waters are all part of one system. Water is also a part of larger ecological system. The main features of the Policy are:

- (1) adequate drinking water supply in both rural and urban populations with 25% and 80 % sanitation respectively in such areas by the end of the International Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation Decade Programme (1981-1990),
- (2) improvements in quality of water by efficient technological application,
- (3) improving the information system for adequate resource planning,
- (4) bringing the available water resources of the country within the category of utilizable resources to the maximum planning for hydrological units,
- (5) Water resources projects should as far as possible be planned and developed as multipurpose projects with provisions for drinking water supply as primary concern. The study of impact of project during construction and later on human lives, settlements, occupations, economic and other aspects should be an