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'National water policy to be presented by March'

MINISTER SPEAK Union minister Pawan Bansal announces at Jaipur meet

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JAIPUR: "The national water policy would be put before the cabinet by March next year. India has been divided into four parts to make the policy. Discussions have been held with panchayat and jila parishad representatives in north, south and west and only the eastern part is left," said union minister of parliamentary affairs and water resources, Pawan Kumar Bansal.

He was speaking as the chief guest at an international conference on 'efficient water use in industrial sector', jointly organised by Rajasthan State Industrial Development and Investment Corporation Limited (RIICO) and India Water Foundation (IWF) at Rajputana Sheraton Hotel on Wednesday.

About linking of rivers, Bansal said that 30 basins had been identified and five would be taken on priority, on which detailed project reports would be presented.

Addressing the inaugural session of the conference, Bansal said: "Industries have to share responsibility towards judicious usage of water and its conservation."

■ Union minister Pawan Bansal (centre) and Rajasthan state industries minister Rajendra Pareek (third from right) release the booklet at the International Conference On Water Use Efficiency In Industries in Jaipur on Wednesday.

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vation."

He added that reuse and recharge along with water harvesting will go a long way in achieving this goal.

Prior to Bansal's speech, industries and water resources minister of Rajasthan, Rajendra Pareek, said: "To make any policy, programme or allocation effective, there is a need to include the practical aspects along with a strong political will. As responsible citizens, it is our duty to protect the environment

and water resources."

He also announced awards of ₹5 lakh, ₹3 lakh and ₹2 lakh annually for units located in industrial areas for best water use efficiency.

Other eminent speakers at the inaugural session were additional chief secretary, water resources, Ramlubhaya, Planning Commission of India senior advisor Ranjan Chatterjee, RIICO chairman Sunil Arora and IWF president Arvind Kumar.

Many experts and internationally acclaimed speakers presented their technical papers during the conference. The key areas of discussion were water conservation, water and climate change, industrial water laws and regulation and institutional challenges. The conference was attended by representatives from the government, industry, civil society, academic institutions etc.

The conference assumes its importance in view of the fact

that there was no industrial water policy in India. "The industrial sector is open to new and innovative ideas and with involvement and cooperation of all stakeholders, the objective of water use efficiency can be achieved," said IWF president.

The RIICO chairman hoped that the deliberations of the conference would help in chalking out a concerted and well coordinated strategy for water conservation and its efficient utilisation.





