

② In order to treat water as an economic good, regulatory bodies play a key role in ensuring transparency in water pricing?

(According to 1992 Dublin CUN statement) treat water as an economic good

In the past, govt regulates the water supply and put tariff only in special cases thereby it was treated as a free good. But

In the present time this scenario has changed as water supply and water price been determined by water body regulators. A robust pricing strategy must be in place for water regulators thus ensuring uniform water supply tariffs across nation & tariff determination based on ability of the user to pay for the service.

At the Central lvl National Water policy (2012) highlighted the need for water regulatory bodies. The policy aims to establish regulatory authorities to plan, manage & control water supply.

Maharashtra was the first state to appoint water regulatory authority in 2005. Water regulatory authorities according to NWP <sup>defined regulatory body</sup> is an advisory body which advises govt & agencies to regulate water usage. However the NWP ~~didn't~~ doesn't elaborate the role & functions of regulatory authorities.

following Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh also enacted the statute of regulatory bodies in 2014. This initiative was followed by several other states like KL, AP, GJ, UT so on, but ~~is~~ not all regulatory bodies follow a similar work. as some bodies had control of only water supply and other had control ~~only~~ only over tariff determination.

Punjab was the latest state to set up a water regulator in 2020. It came up with a new model.

(eg) If water user do not meet individual targets or conservation of water they are entitled to pay the amount to authority as part of his usage charges.

Way forward -

① Setting up of water regulatory body with clearly defined roles & functions of them to ensure efficiency & transparency in the water pricing process is must.

Conclusion -  
\* There's a need for quality framework & policy reforms to strengthen the role of water regulatory Authorities so that it not only act as <sup>an</sup> advisory body

Conclusion - with the proper implementation of reforms and guidelines for ~~National~~ Each state regulatory body ensures greater water security in the years ahead.