

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4342

ANSWERED ON:16.04.2001

STORAGE POSITION OF RESERVOIRS

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Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the present storage position of major reservoirs in the country is below the average capacity in comparison to last year;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) the storage position of these reservoirs at the end of December, 2000 in comparison to December, 1990; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI)

(a) & (b) Central Water Commission is monitoring the status of storages of 70 important major reservoirs having total designed live storages capacity of 130.553 Billion Cubic Metre. As per the monitoring status of these 70 reservoirs as on the 9th April, 2001, the details of live storage for this year and last year are as follows:- Reservoir Capacity (BCM)

This season capacity	Last season to last year	% of this year's live capacity
31.101	45.971	67.6

The main reason for the low storage in the reservoirs is due to deficient rainfall in the catchment areas of the reservoirs.

(c) The live storage of the 70 reservoirs being monitored at the end of December, 2000 was 63.812 Billion Cubic Metre while the live storage at the end of December 1990 of the 58 reservoirs being monitored was 86.072 Billion Cubic Metre.

(d) The State Governments have been advised to regulate these reservoirs with utmost caution as storages are unlikely to improve substantially till the ensuing monsoon. Simultaneously, necessary measures for conservation and optimum utilization of available water are also needed to be taken. The following measures have been suggested for consideration and adoption.

1. The release from the reservoir should be regulated keeping in view the possible water deficit and making curtailments for irrigation in consultation with State Agriculture Department.
2. While releasing water from the reservoir, priority should be given to drinking water supply. A proper planning for meeting the drinking water requirement for the area to cater upto June 2001 should be done.
3. In case of hydel-power/multipurpose projects, where the storage in the reservoir is very low, the releases for hydro- power generation may be made keeping in view the drinking water requirements till the onset of next monsoon.

As a long term measure to augment the availability of water in reservoirs, inter-basin transfer of water is also under study by the National Water Development Agency.