

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5799
ANSWERED ON:03.05.2000
WATER MANAGEMENT
SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "U.S. proposes global alliance on water security" appearing in the Hindustan Times dated April 15, 2000;
- (b) if so, the facts of the matter reported therein;
- (c) the reaction of the Government thereto; and
- (d) the concrete steps taken by the Government to remove water scarcity in each State?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES

(SMT. BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY)

(a) & (b) Yes Sir, as per the report published in Hindustan Times on 15th April, 2000 "The US has proposed a global alliance for water security as inter-state competition for water intensifies in the 21st century, with the pressures of population growth and economic development, giving rise to unpredictable and potentially unmanageable regional conflicts. The proposal for the alliance was made when US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright spoke in Washington on April 10 in advance of the 30th anniversary of Earth Day 2000 on April 22".

(c) & (d) India receives a rainfall of about 4000 billion cu.m. every year. Out of this about 1869 billion cu. m. appears as runoff in the various rivers of the country including replenishable Ground Water of around 432 billion cu.m. The requirement of the country, upto 2025 AD can be met through optimal utilisation of these renewable water resources. The per capita water availability is reducing progressively due to increasing population. It is estimated that the average annual per capita water availability may come down from about 1869 cu.m. at present to 1350 cu.m. by 2025 A.D. at the National level. According to international criteria any situation of yearly water availability or less than 1000 cu.m. per capita is considered as scarcity condition. Therefore, even by the end of 2025 A.D., India is not likely to face water scarcity in some parts of the country. Government of India is also promoting Rainwater Harvesting through Watershed Management Programme, Artificial Recharge of Ground Water and Roof-top Rainwater Harvesting under the sector reform project of Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme under the Ministry of Rural Development for which technical and financial assistance is provided to the State Governments and other implementing agencies. Central Ground Water Board has also taken up pilot studies for artificial ground water recharge.