

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:474

ANSWERED ON:26.07.2000

SCARCITY OF WATER

MANIBHAI RAMJIBHAI CHAUDHARY;UTTAMRAO NATHUJI DHIKALE

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether per capita availability of water has been declining rapidly in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether experts have pointed out that the Maharashtra State was heading the Rajasthan way and might face severe water scarcity in future;
- (d) if so, whether Government propose to educate the people for the judicious use of water;
- (e) whether several other States are facing great water scarcity in the country;
- (f) if so, the details thereof;
- (g) whether any survey has been conducted by the Government in this regard;
- (h) if so, the details thereof; and
- (i) the remedial measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to check such decline?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SMT. BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY)

(a) to (i) The average annual Water availability in the country remains more or less fixed according to the natural hydrologic cycle. The per capita average annual water availability in the country is reducing progressively owing to increasing population. The average annual per capita water availability is estimated to be about 1869 Cu.m. in 2000 AD at national level.

Availability of water in rivers is assessed River basin- wise. As per assessment of water resources potential made by Central Water Commission in 1993 the average annual availability of water in major river basins in the country and the per capita availability for projected population for 2000 AD is given in Annex-I. As per the criteria adopted by some international agencies any situation of water availability of less than 1000 Cubic meters per capita per year is considered as a scarcity condition. According to this criterion, the scarcity situations exists in eight of the river basins namely: Pennar, East flowing rivers between Pennar and Kanyakumari, Cauvery, West flowing rivers of Kutch and Saurashtra including Luni, Sabarmati, Tapi, Mahi and East flowing rivers between Mahanadi and Godavari. A part of Maharashtra State which falls in the Tapi Basin is also therefore facing water scarcity.

The Government has initiated various measures like Command Area Development Programme and Water Resources Consolidation Projects to improve efficiency of irrigation water use in the country. As a long term measure National Water Development Agency have formulated National Perspective Plan for water resource development which envisages inter-linking between various Pennisular rivers and Himalayan rivers for transfer of water from surplus basins to water deficit basins. Government of India is also promoting Rain Water Harvesting through Watershed Management Programme, Artificial recharge of Ground Water and roof-top rain water 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 Government and other implementing agencies. Central Ground Water Board has also taken up pilot studies for artificial ground water recharge.

RIVER BASIN WISE WATER AVAILABILITY

River Basin	Catchment Area (millions of hectares)	Population (millions)	Average Annual Availability (Cubic meters)	Estimated Per Capita Availability (Cubic meters)	Per Capita Availability (Cubic meters)
Indus	32.13	73.31	41.9	1,749	1482
Ganga Brahmapurta Meqhna System	109.76	1110.62	392.04	18,061	

(includes Ganga & Brahmaputra & Barak)						
Ganga	86.15	525.02	356.8	1,471	1239	
Brahmaputra & Barak		23.61	585.6	35.24	16,589	14057
Godavari	31.28	110.54	53.98	2,048	1734	
Krishna	25.89	78.12	60.78	1,285	1088	
Cauvery	8.12	21.36	29.33	728	619	
Subernrekha	2.92	12.37	9.46	1,307	1118	
Brahmani Baitarni		5.18	28.48	9.77	2,815	2463
Mahanadi	14.16	66.88	26.6	2,513	2131	
Pennar	5.52	6.32	9.7	651	550	
Mahi	3.48	11.02	10.48	1,052	888	
Sabarmati	2.17	3.81	10.58	360	307	
Narmada	9.88	45.64	14.7	3,109	2628	
Tapi	6.51	14.88	14.8	1,007	853	

West flowing Rivers

a. Tapi to Tadri	5.29	87.41	25.8	3,383	2870
b. Tadri to Kanyakumari	5.62	113.51	32.6	3,480	2950
c. Kutch and Saurashtra Incl. Luni	32.19	15.1	22.1	683	579

East Flowing rivers

a. Mahanadi to Godavari	8.66	22.52	23.6	953	808
b. Pennar to Kanyamumari	10.01	16.46	45.2	366	311
Area of Inland Drainage in Rajasthan	6		7.1		
Minor Rivers draining into Bangladesh and Myanmar	3.63	31	2.1	14,623	12500