

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:155
ANSWERED ON:02.08.2000
RAIN HARVESTING SYSTEM
BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB;SHYAMA SINGH

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have assessed the quantum of rain water being harvested and utilised for different purposes in the country, particularly in Orissa;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) urged the State Governments to make it mandatory for urban dwelling units in the States to harvest roof-top rain water;
- (d) whether the CGWA proposed to bring any legislation in this regard;
- (e) if so, the reaction of the State Governments thereto;
- (f) whether the State Governments have sought financial assistance from the Union Government to speed up work on rain harvesting system during the current financial year; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof along with the financial assistance provided to the States?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI)

(a) to (g) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) TO (g) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION 155 FOR 2.8.2000 REGARDING RAIN HARVESTING SYSTEM

The total average annual rainfall in the country is about 4000 Billion Cubic Metres (BCM). Out of this, the average annual flow in the various rivers of the country is 1869 BCM.

The utilisable surface water has been assessed as 690 BCM. The utilisable ground water is assessed as 433.8 BCM and out of which 20 BCM is available in the State of Orissa. The present utilisation of ground water in Orissa is 15 percent.

Actual utilisation for different purposes has not been assessed. However, the projected demand for the various uses in the country is as under.

Use Water Demand for 2000
(In Billion Cubic Metre)

Irrigation	630	
Domestic		33
Industry		30
Energy	27	
Others	30	

TOTAL 750

The Central Ground Water Authority has suggested to the State Governments to make provision of rooftop rain water harvesting in cities and initiate measures for conservation, protection and augmentation of ground water resources. It is however not considering legislation in this regard.

The Madras Metropolitan Development Authority(MMDA) has issued regulations for conservation of roof to rain water. Delhi Government has decided to make water harvesting compulsory in all new residential buildings, group housing societies and plotted residential areas of over 500 Sq. m. Municipal Corporation Ludhiana has issued directions that no permission may be given for construction of industrial plants, marriage palaces, commercial complexes, group housing society and multi-storey flats unless the owners of the property include the construction of water harvesting structures.

The Government provides funds to the States to supplement their efforts for providing drinking water under Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) and up to 20 percent of the ARWSP funds can be earmarked and utilised for sustainability of drinking water source including water harvesting structures. As per guidelines under the Prime Minister's Gramodaya Yojana (PMGY) for Rural Drinking Water, minimum 25% of total allocation for the component is to be utilised by the respective States / UT's on projects/ schemes for water conservation, water harvesting, water recharge and sustainability of drinking water source in respect of DDP /DPAP areas, over-exploited dark / grey blocks and other water stress / drought affected areas. Allocation of 25% of the total allocation for sustainability is not to be insisted upon in areas where the water table and rainfall is high and ground water development is low.

The Government have received some proposals for financial assistance for water harvesting from the States of Gujarat, Nagaland and Mizoram for consideration under the Central Sector Scheme of ground water recharge being implemented by the Central Ground Water Board. No decision on these proposals has been taken as yet.