

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2808
ANSWERED ON:09.08.2000
WATER MANAGEMENT
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Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether according to the recent Worldwatch Institute report which point out that 70% of water consumed globally including diversion from rivers and under ground water is used for irrigation, 20 percent goes to industry and 10 percent for residential purpose;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether under this report, India is heading for hydrological poverty; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to meet the water shortage in the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI)

(a) to (d) The Report of the World Watch Institute on "State of the World 2000" does not categorically state so. However the major consumptive use of water is in irrigation sector and is of the order of 70-80% and the remaining is utilized for other uses namely, domestic, energy sector etc. In India the share of demand of water for irrigation sector is of the order of 84% at present.

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 is reducing progressively owing to increasing population. The average annual per capita water availability may come down from about 1869 Cu.m. at present to about 1350 Cu.m. by 2025 AD at national level. This is well above the limit of 1000 Cu.m. per capita per annum, considered as scarcity condition. Therefore, even by the end of 2035 AD, India is not likely to face water scarcity situation at the national level, though uneven water availability may cause local water scarcity in some parts of the country.

The Govt. 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 resources development which envisages interlinking between various Peninsular 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.