

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:955

ANSWERED ON:27.02.2006

ASSESSMENT OF RESERVOIRS FOR FARMERS

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Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has made any assessment of the conditions of water reservoirs for farmers in the country during 2004-05 and 2005-06;
- (b) if so, the name of States where farmers depend on water reservoirs for farming;
- (c) whether the quantity of available water has been sufficient for farmers; and
- (d) if not, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ)

(a) Central Water Commission (CWC), an attached office of Ministry of Water Resources monitored the storage position of 76 important reservoirs in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Jharkhand, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, Uttaranchal and West Bengal on weekly basis during 2004-05 and 2005-06.

(b) One of the major uses of water from reservoirs is for irrigated agriculture. Hence under irrigated agriculture all the farmers in all the states use water from reservoirs constructed for such purpose. Ground water is also used for irrigation wherever required and feasible.

(c) As on 17.02.2006, the current year's storage in these 76 reservoirs is nearly 145 percent of the last year's storage and 127 percent of the average storage over the last ten years. There are 57 projects reporting storage better than the average of last 10 years storage. However, remaining 19 reservoirs are reporting storage less than the average of last 10 years storage.

(d) Water being a State subject, the responsibility of survey and investigation, planning development, funding, execution and management of all type of water resources project & reservoir to harness the water resources within the states rests with the concerned State Governments.

To overcome the scarcity situation in future, Government of India is promoting the strategies for optimization of water use efficiency, water conservation and conjunctive use of surface and ground water.