

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5311

ANSWERED ON:28.04.2010

UTILISATION OF RAIN WATER

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Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has not been able to harvest the rain water properly for its utilization;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the estimated volume of rain water in the country and the quantity of water utilized out of it;
- (d) the details of schemes being implemented by the Government for rain water harvesting including the funds allocated and utilized for the purpose during the last three years and the current year, State-wise and year-wise; and
- (e) the benefits accrued or likely to accrue to the people as a result thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT H. PALA)

(a) to (c) The average annual precipitation is estimated as 4000 Billion Cubic Meters (BCM) in the country. After accounting for the natural process of evaporation etc., the average annual water availability in the country is assessed as 1869 BCM. It is estimated that owing to topographic, hydrological and other constraints, the utilizable water is 1123 BCM which comprises of 690 BCM of surface water and 433 BCM of replenishable ground water resources. National Water Policy states that "water resources available to the country should be brought within the category of utilizable resources to the maximum possible extent". Due emphasis has been laid on non-conventional methods for utilisation of water such as through inter-basin transfer, artificial recharge to ground water and desalination of brackish or sea water as well as traditional water conservation practices like rainwater harvesting including roof top rainwater harvesting with a view to further increase the utilizable water resources. The present utilization through various measures has been assessed to be about 690 BCM.

(d) The Government of India is supplementing the efforts of States by implementing the schemes for rain water harvesting and ground water recharge as outlined in the Annexure-I and details of funds released to States under these schemes are given in the Annexure-II. The States may take up projects under these schemes to harvest the rain water for utilization.

(e) The impact assessment of Scheme implemented by Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) during the IX and X Plans has indicated local rise in ground water levels and improved sustainability of dug wells/ tubewells, decrease in soil erosion and improvement in socio-economic status of farmers in cropped area.