

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:6134
ANSWERED ON:03.05.2010
DEMAND AND SUPPLY OF DRINKING WATER
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Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) the present demand/ availability and actual supply of water for drinking purpose in the country, State-wise;
- (b) the per capita requirement of drinking water in each State along with the supply thereof;
- (c) whether per capita availability of drinking water has fallen drastically in the country;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the specific steps being taken or proposed to be taken during the current Five Year Plan to meet the shortage of drinking water in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (MS. AGATHA SANGMA)

(a) to (d): The Ministry of Water Resources has estimated the average annual utilizable water is 1123 billion cubic metres (MCB). The National Commission on Integrated Water Resources Development has assessed the water requirement for domestic purposes as 42-43 BCM in 2010. State-wise details have not been assessed by the Ministry of Water Resources. As per National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) guidelines, States/ UTs are free to decide the per-capita requirement norms of drinking water, depending upon the demand by the community, local conditions and availability of water resources. Due to various reasons viz. increase in population, depleting ground water table, water-quality problems, deficient rainfall, seasonal variations in ground water table, etc., in some areas, the availability from existing ground water based water supply systems viz. tube wells, hand pumps, etc. gets reduced during the lean season. The Department of Drinking Water Supply, Ministry of Rural Development does not have information about the per capita availability of drinking water in the country.

(e): Since 01-04-2009, 20% of the NRDWP fund allocated to States is earmarked for sustainability measures to sustain water availability in drinking water sources. Allocation under NRDWP to States has been continuously enhanced in each financial year of the 11th Five Year Plan. States have been advised to accord priority in their Annual Action Plan to provide potable drinking water to water deficient and quality-affected habitations.