

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2438
ANSWERED ON:22.07.2009
DEPLETION OF WATER LEVEL IN DAMS
Ray Shri Rudramadhab

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the water level in Bhakra Dam is depleting fast;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) the likely impact on the water supply to the States of Punjab, Himachal Pradesh and Haryana as a result thereof;
- (d) whether the Government has conducted any study about the water level in other dams of the country;
- (e) if so, the outcome thereof alongwith the names of the dams; and
- (f) the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) As per the meeting of the Technical Committee of the Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB) held on 25.06.2009, the critical position in Bhakra reservoir was due to less snowmelt runoff in the reservoir and delayed and less rainfall than the normal in its catchment. Recently, water levels in Bhakra Dam from 06.07.2009 to 17.07.2009 have risen from 1529.09 feet to 1544.70 feet.

(c) Water supply to the partner States of Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan is made as per the decisions arrived at in the meetings of the Technical Committee of the BBMB in which these States are represented, keeping in view the position of reservoirs. As per BBMB, best endeavour is made to manage the releases in such a manner so that all the irrigation and drinking water requirements of the States are fully met.

(d) & (e) Central Water Commission (CWC) is monitoring the storage position of 81 important reservoirs of the country and issuing the weekly bulletin. As per the information provided by CWC, the total designed live storage of the 81 reservoirs is 151.77 Billion Cubic Metre (BCM). The storage position of these 81 reservoirs as on 16.07.2009 was 20.73 BCM which is 14% of designed live storage as against 28% for last year and 26% average for the last 10 years. The names of the 81 reservoirs are at annexure.

(f) In view of low reservoir levels and delayed monsoon across the country, the Ministry of Water Resources advised all the State Governments and Union Territories (UTs) # to utilize the available surface water resources prudently and harness the possible ground water resources to tide over any possible shortage.

to make judicious use of water available from the reservoirs, giving priority to drinking water supply and agriculture as per National Water Policy.

to work out water budget for every reservoir covering drinking water, agriculture, other uses and evaporation losses.

to take over the successful exploratory wells drilled by Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) for enhancing water availability.

to get in touch with the regional offices of CGWB and avail technical assistance in identifying potential sources of ground water to harness them early.