

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:52
ANSWERED ON:28.07.2010
WATER CRISIS IN THE COUNTRY
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Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the per capita availability of water in the country has decreased during the last decade;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the desired success could not be achieved despite constitution of a Technical Expert Committee on water solution as per the directives of the Supreme Court;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the effective steps taken/being taken by the Government to tackle the water crisis in the country and to ensure availability of requisite water for different purposes?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND WATER RESOURCES (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL)

(a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. +52 TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 28.7.2010 REGARDING WATER CRISIS IN THE COUNTRY.

(a) & (b) The average annual water availability for the country as a whole has been assessed as 1869 billion cubic meter (BCM). As a result of population growth, the per capita water availability has reduced over time. In 1951, the per capita water availability was 5177 cubic meter which reduced to 2209 cubic meter in 1991 and 1820 cubic meter in 2001.

(c) & (d) As per the direction of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, Ministry of Science & Technology has constituted a Technical Expert Committee on 29th June 2009 to do scientific research on a war footing to solve the water shortage in the country. The Technical Expert Committee has finalised the action points and time delivery schedule for the mission on winning, augmentation and renovation for water. As per the information provided by the Ministry of Science & Technology, the revised date for submission of the final research report complete with details of solutions found out is December 2011.

(e) With a view to augment the water resources for utilization for various purposes, several measures are undertaken by respective State Governments which, inter-alia, include development of major, medium and minor irrigation projects for utilizing both surface water and ground water, conservation of water resources through reservoirs, traditional water bodies, rainwater harvesting and artificial recharge to ground water. Government of India provides central grants to State Governments under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme and Command Area Development & Water Management Programme. Ministry of Water Resources has also launched scheme for Repairs, Renovation and Restoration of Water Bodies under which assistance is provided to the States.