

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
WATER RESOURCES  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:555

ANSWERED ON:28.07.2010

ENHANCEMENT OF WATER STORAGE CAPACITY

Rama Devi Smt. ;Singh Shri Rajiv Ranjan (Lalan)

**Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the monsoon rain, which occurs during some months only is the main source to meet water demand of the country;
- (b) if so, the manner in which the Government proposes to meet the over all water demand of the country keeping in view the lesser rainfall;
- (c) whether the storage capacity in the country is just 210 cubic meter per person which is far less as compared to average international storage capacity;
- (d) if so, the comparative data of storage capacity of India with other developed countries; and
- (e) the steps taken by the Government to enhance the water storage capacity to meet the increasing water demand?

**Answer**

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

(a) to (e) Monsoon rain is the main source of flow in rivers and recharge to ground water aquifer systems in the country. In addition to the monsoon rainfall, the snowmelt and glacier melt also contribute to the flow of Brahmaputra, Ganga and Indus rivers. However, there are large temporal and spatial variations in the rainfall and hence in the water availability.

As per the report of the Working Group on Water Resources for the XI Five Year Plan constituted by the Planning Commission, the per capita storage in the country is only about 210 cubic metre which is way behind the achievement in many of the developed and developing countries, such as Russia (6103 cubic metre), Australia (4733 cubic metre), Brazil (3145 cubic metre), USA (1964 cubic metre), Turkey (1739 cubic metre), Spain (1410 cubic metre), Mexico (1245 cubic metre), China (1111 cubic metre) and South Africa (753 cubic metre).

Various measures for conservation of water through reservoirs and water bodies are undertaken by respective State Governments. Creation of storage capacity of about 225 billion cubic metre (BCM) has so far been reported by State Governments. The total storage capacity of the various projects under construction has been estimated to be about 64 BCM. Further, the State Governments have identified various other schemes for investigation and planning and the estimated storage for such schemes is about 108 BCM. Schemes for repair, renovation and restoration of water bodies have also been taken up. Further, the schemes for rainwater harvesting and artificial recharge to groundwater are also promoted.