

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:354
ANSWERED ON:18.08.2010
WATER CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT
Mirdha Dr. Jyoti;Rajendran Shri C.

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) the salient features and the present status of the National Water Mission under the National Action Plan on Climate Change;
- (b) whether there is unequal distribution of water in the country;
- (c) if so, the details thereof alongwith the demand and supply position of water in the country, State-wise;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to amend the Constitution and shift the subject water from the State List to the Concurrent List in the Seventh Schedule; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government in this regard so far?

Answer

THE MINISTER 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.354 TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 18.8.2010 REGARDING WATER CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT

(a): The National Action Plan on Climate Change envisages institutionalization of eight national missions which inter-alia includes "National Water Mission". The comprehensive Mission Document for National Water Mission drafted by the Ministry of Water Resources through a consultative process has been considered by the Prime Minister's Council on Climate Change and in-principle approval has been accorded. The objective of National Water Mission is "conservation of water, minimizing wastage and ensuring its more equitable distribution both across and within States through integrated water resources management". Five goals identified for the National Water Mission are: (i) comprehensive water data base in public domain and assessment of the impact of climate change on water resources; (ii) promotion of citizen and State actions for water conservation, augmentation and preservation; (iii) focused attention to vulnerable areas including over over-exploited areas; (iv) increasing water use efficiency by 20%; and (v) promotion of basin level integrated water resources management.

(b) & (c): The total of average annual precipitation for the country is estimated to be about 4,000 billion cubic meters (BCM) and the water availability has been assessed as 1,869 BCM. In view of topographical constraints and hydrological features, the utilizable water has been estimated to be about 1,123 BCM comprising of 690 BCM of surface water and 433 BCM of replenishable ground water. The availability of water is highly uneven both in space and time. Rainfall is mostly confined to only about three to four months in a year and varies from 100 mm in the western parts of Rajasthan to over 10000 mm at Cherrapunji in Meghalaya. A statement indicating the state-wise availability of ground water resources is given at Annexure I. The utilizable surface water has been assessed basin-wise and the details are at Annexure II. The National Commission for Integrated Water Resources Development (NCIWRD) has assessed the water requirement for the year 2010 as 710 BCM. State-wise requirement of water as assessed by NCIWRD for the year 2010 is at Annexure III.

(d) & (e): The Government has not formulated any proposal to amend the Constitution and shift the subject "water" from State List to the Concurrent List in the Seventh Schedule.