

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
WATER RESOURCES  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:420

ANSWERED ON:25.08.2010

PER CAPITA AVAILABILITY OF WATER

Meghe Shri Datta Raghobaji;Swamygowda Shri N Cheluvarama Swamy

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

- (a) the daily per capita availability of water for agriculture, industrial, domestic uses, etc. at present, State/UT-wise;
- (b) whether the gap between demand and availability of water for the above purposes is growing rapidly;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the corrective measures taken/ proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

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

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF STARRED QUESTION No.420 TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 25-08-2010 REGARDING PER CAPITA AVAILABILITY OF WATER.

(a) to (d): As per the United Nations World Water Development Report, the per capita volume of water gives the maximum theoretical amount of water available for the country on a per capita basis. It is estimated by dividing the total actual renewable water resources theoretically available for development from all sources within a country expressed in cubic kilometers per year (km<sup>3</sup>/year) with the nation's population and adjusted to cubic meters per year (m<sup>3</sup>/year). In view of very high temporal variations, daily per capita availability of water is not assessed.

The average annual water availability for the country as a whole has been assessed as 1,869 billion cubic meters (BCM). The increase in population results in reduction in per capita water availability. In 1951, the per capita water availability was 5,177 cubic meter per year. On the basis of the population indicated in 2001 census, the per capita water availability works out to be about 1,820 cubic meter per year. In view of topographical constraints and hydrological features, the utilizable water has been estimated to be about 1,123 BCM.

The total water requirement for various uses including agriculture, industrial and domestic uses etc. in the country has been assessed by the "Standing Sub-Committee for Assessment of Availability and Requirement of Water for Diverse Uses in the Country" to be about 813 BCM, 1093 BCM, and 1447 BCM by the year 2010, 2025 and 2050 respectively. However, the National Commission for Integrated Water resources Development has assessed that with achievement of the desired level of efficiency, the water requirement by the year 2010, 2025 and 2050 will be about 710 BCM, 843 BCM and 1180 BCM respectively.

In view of the likely gap between the projected requirement of water for various uses and the available utilizable water, there is need for conservation of water and utmost efficiency in water utilization.

The National Water Policy states that (a) the water resources should be conserved, (b) water resources available to the country should be brought within the category of utilizable resources to the maximum possible extent, (c) efficiency of utilization in diverse uses of water should be optimized and (d) there is urgent need of paradigm shift in the management of water resources sector. Several measures for development and improved management of water resources are undertaken by the respective State Governments which include creation of storages, restoration of water bodies, rain water harvesting, artificial recharge to ground water, and adoption of better management practices etc. Government of India is providing assistance to the State Governments through various schemes / programmes, such as Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme, scheme for Command Area Development and Water Management and scheme for Repair, Renovation and Restoration of Water Bodies. The Government of India has formulated a National Perspective Plan for Water Resources Development which envisages transfer of water from surplus basins to water deficit basins. With a view to bring in efficiency in urban infrastructure including water supply and sanitation and service delivery mechanisms, community participation and accountability of urban water bodies towards citizens, the Government of India have launched the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission in December, 2005. A centrally sponsored scheme "National Rural Drinking Water Programme" is also being implemented by Department of Drinking Water Supply, Ministry of Rural Development to meet the emerging challenges in the rural drinking water sector relating to availability, sustainability and quality of drinking water.