GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2887
ANSWERED ON:11.08.2010
OPTIMUM UTILISATION OF WATER
Chaudhary Shri Jayant;Hooda Shri Deepender Singh;Khaire Shri Chandrakant Bhaurao;Lal Shri Kirodi ;Majumdar Shri Prasanta Kumar;Paswan Shri Kamlesh ;Singh Shri Dushyant;Tirkey Shri Manohar

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has made any assessment of the total utilizable water availability in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof, separately both surface and ground water sources, State-wise;

(c) the action taken by the Government for optimum utilization of surface/river water for drinking and irrigation purposes alongwith the legal provisions stipulated in this regard;

(d) whether the Government proposes to enforce water auditing in domestic and agricultural use; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a): Total Water availability in the country has been estimated to be about 1869 billion cubic meter (BCM). However, in view of hydrological features and due to topographical constraints, the utilizable water has been assessed as 1123 BCM which includes 690 BCM of surface water and 433 BCM of replenishable ground water.

(b): A statement indicating the state-wise availability of ground water resources is given at Annexure I. The utilizable surface water resources has been assessed basin-wise and the details are at Annexure II.

(c): The subject related to water is included in the List II of Seventh Schedule of the Constitution of India at Entry 17 as "Water, that is to say, water supplies, irrigation and canals, drainage and embankments, water storage and water power subject to provisions of entry 56 of List I". Entry 56 of List I (Union List) of the Seventh Schedule is : "Regulation and development of inter-State rivers and river valleys to the extent to which such regulation and development under the control of the Union is declared by Parliament by law to be expedient in the public interest".

Several measures for development and management of water resources are undertaken by the respective States Governments, which include creation of storages, restoration of water bodies, rainwater harvesting, artificial recharge to ground water and adoption of better management practices etc. State Governments conceive, plan and implement projects for development and utilisation of both surface and ground water resources for various purposes. Government of India is providing central assistance to the State Governments through various schemes / programmes, such as Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programmes (AIBP); Command Area Development and Water Management (CAD&WM); Repair, Renovation and Restoration of Water Bodies etc. The Government of India also encourages rainwater harvesting and recharge to groundwater for conservation of water.

Due emphasis has been laid on non-conventional methods for utilization of water such as through inter-basin transfer, artificial recharge to ground water and desalination of brackish or sea water as well as traditional water conservation practices like rainwater harvesting including roof top rainwater harvesting with a view to further increase the utilizable water resources.

(d) & (e): Central Water Commission has prepared a "General Guidelines for Water Audit & Water Conservation for Domestic, Irrigation and Industrial Purposes". The guidelines broadly cover various steps of water audit including water supply usage study, process study, system audit, discharge analysis and water audit report. Aspects related to irrigation, domestic and industrial usages of water have been covered in the report. The guidelines have been circulated to the States. Government of Maharashtra has initiated the process of water auditing in the irrigation sector. Further, promotion of mandatory water audit including those for drinking water purposes has been included as an important strategy in the draft mission document for National Water Mission.