

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:415
ANSWERED ON:08.12.2010
EXTINCTION OF RIVERS
Jena Shri Mohan

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) the quantum of river water put to use in the country;
- (b) the details of schemes/programmes undertaken for optimal utilisation of water resources, including river water;
- (c) whether the Government is aware about the extinction of some rivers/water bodies in different parts of the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether any data is available with regard to the loss of water resources in the country; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

Answer

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

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (f) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. 415 TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 8.12.2010 REGARDING EXTINCTION OF RIVERS

(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 comprising 690 BCM of surface water and 433 BCM of replenishable ground water. As per the available assessment, about 450 BCM of surface water and 231 BCM of ground water resources is being utilized for diverse purposes.

(b) Several measures for development and management of water resources are undertaken by the respective States Governments. State Governments conceive, plan and implement projects for development and utilisation of both surface and ground water resources for various purposes. Government of India provides 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 (RRR) of Water Bodies etc. as per approved guidelines.

(c) & (d) Specific reports about extinction of any river in the country have not been received from any of the State Governments. However, several reports refer to water bodies being converted for agriculture and human settlements. The National Environment Policy – 2006 (NEP) states that "wetlands are under threat from drainage and conversion for agriculture and human settlements, besides pollution" The NEP further mentions that a "holistic view of wetlands is necessary, which looks at each identified wetland in terms of its causal linkages with other natural entities, human needs, and its own attributes". The actions identified in the NEP include "Set up a legally enforceable regulatory mechanism for identified valuable wetlands, to prevent their degradation and enhance their conservation. Develop a national inventory of such wetlands".

(e) & (f) As per the information available from India Meteorological Department, the normal annual rainfall in the country is about 1196 millimeters (mm). The total of average annual rainfall, snowfall and glacier melt in volumetric term has been assessed to be about 4000 billion cubic meters (BCM). However, after accounting for the evaporation and evapo-transpiration, the water availability has been assessed as 1869 BCM. Even this available water cannot be fully utilized due to topographical constraints and hydrological features and utilizable water has been estimated to be about 1123 BCM comprising 690 BCM of surface water and 433 BCM of replenishable ground water. Rest of the water could be considered to be flowing down to sea.