

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3544

ANSWERED ON:01.12.2010

SHORTAGE OF WATER

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Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government's attention has been drawn to the World Bank report which predicts water shortage for all major Indian cities by 2030;
- (b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;
- (c) whether the Government has made any assessment of the shortage of water in the Indian cities;
- (d) if so, the details of the assessment;
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor;
- (f) the concrete steps and initiatives being taken by the Government to address the problem of water shortage; and
- (g) the steps being taken by the Government to ensure that every State Government formulate a Water Policy backed by an operational action plan, in line with the National Water Policy,2020?

Answer

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

(a) to (f) Several reports by international organizations including those by World Bank, World Economic Forum etc. have mentioned about water related issues and challenges in water sector which inter-alia include the water related issues in cities. The report titled "The Bubble is Close to Bursting: A Forecast of the Main Economic and Geopolitical Water Issues Likely to Arise in the World during the Next Two Decades" brought out by World Economic Forum includes specific mention that "60% of the global population will live in cities by 2030. A shortage of clean water for people and business in the urban environment is becoming a problem of global proportions." The report includes references about major cities in the world including that of India. Government is aware of increasing demand of water as a result of population growth, industrialization and urbanization.

Based on the information obtained from State level agencies / Urban Local Bodies in respect of 35 metropolitan cities, it has been found that only in five metro cities, the water supply is less than 100 litres per capita per day, which is the minimum requirement as per the World Health Organization (WHO) Guidelines from the point of view of optimal access and public health risk.

Various steps for augmentation of water supply in metropolitan cities are taken up by the respective State Governments. However, in order to supplement the efforts of State Governments / Urban Local Bodies for providing water supply in urban areas, Government in the Ministry of Urban Development is providing Additional Central Assistance (ACA) as per the guidelines under the ongoing Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) with components of Urban Infrastructure and Governance (UIG) and Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme for Small and Medium Towns (UIDSSMT) launched in 2005-06. The UIG is for select 65 cities in the country and UIDSSMT is for all other Urban Cities / Town etc.

(g) The National Water Policy 2002 stipulates that State Water Policy backed with an operational action plan shall be formulated in a time bound manner. State Water Policies have been formulated and adopted by 12 States namely, Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh. Further, Delhi, Daman & Diu, Dadra & Nagar Haveli have adopted the National Water Policy. Ministry of Water Resources has been pursuing with State Governments for formulation of State Water Policy and the status is also reviewed at the meetings of the National Water Board.