

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:532
ANSWERED ON:24.02.2011
UTILISATION OF RAINWATER
Ganeshamurthi Shri A.

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a large quantum of natural and rainwater is wasted and goes unutilized every year;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the quantum of water required and used for cultivation and drinking purpose in a year, State-wise;and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government for proper distribution of water for cultivation and drinking purposes throughout the year?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) The total of average annual rainfall, snowfall and glacier melt in volumetric term works out to about 4000 billion cubic meters (BCM). After accounting for the evaporation and evapo-transpiration, the water availability has been assessed as 1869 BCM. However, in view of hydrological features and due to topographical constraints the utilizable water has been assessed as 1123 BCM. The rest of water could be considered to be flowing down to sea.

(c) The total water used for different uses is 681 BCM. Ministry of Water Resources has not made assessment of State wise quantum of water required. The quantum of water required for different purposes has been assessed by the National Commission for Integrated Water Resources Development (NCIWRD). As assessed by NCIWRD, the requirement of water for irrigation and domestic use for 2010 are 557 BCM and 43 BCM respectively for the country.

(d) Several measures for development and improved management of water resources are undertaken by respective State Governments which include creation of storages, restoration of water bodies, rainwater 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. In order to supplement the efforts of State Governments / Urban Local Bodies in providing adequate water supply facilities in urban areas, Ministry of Urban Development is providing Additional Central Assistance as per guidelines under the ongoing Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission with components of Urban Infrastructure & Governance and Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme for Small & Medium Towns launched in 2005-06. A Centrally Sponsored Scheme "National Rural Drinking Water Programme" is also being implemented by the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation, Ministry of Rural Development for drinking water supply in rural areas.