

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5906

ANSWERED ON:08.09.2011

NATIONAL WATER MISSION

Lal Shri Kirodi ;Mandal Shri Mangani Lal;Singh Shri Jagada Nand

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) the main features of the National Water Mission alongwith the present status thereof;
- (b) whether there is unequal distribution of water in the country;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) the State-wise position of demand and supply of water in the country alongwith the demand expected during the next decade;
- (e) whether the Government proposes to bring about an amendment in the Constitution of India so as to transfer subject water from the State list in the Seventh Schedule to the Concurrent list;
- (f) if so, the details thereof; and
- (g) the action being taken by the Government thereon?

Answer

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

(a) The objective of National Water Mission is "conservation of water, minimizing wastage and ensuring its more equitable distribution both across and within States through integrated water resources management". Five goals identified for the National Water Mission are: (i) comprehensive water data base in public domain and assessment of the impact of climate change on water resources; (ii) promotion of citizen and State actions for water conservation, augmentation and preservation; (iii) focused attention to vulnerable areas including over over-exploited areas; (iv) increasing water use efficiency by 20%; and (v) promotion of basin level integrated water resources management.

In pursuance of the approval accorded by the Union Cabinet to the National Water Mission, a Mission Secretariat headed by Additional Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources has been set up in Ministry of Water Resources. Copies of the approved Mission Document have been forwarded to the State Governments /UTs and the concerned Ministries/Department of the Government of India for necessary action.

(b) to (d) The average annual rainfall in the country is about 1170 millimeters (mm). The availability of water is highly uneven both in space and time. Rainfall is mostly confined to only about three to four months in a year and varies from 100 mm in the western parts of Rajasthan to over 10000 mm at Cherrapunji in Meghalaya. A statement indicating the state-wise availability of ground water resources is given at Annexure I. The utilizable surface water has been assessed basin-wise and the details are at Annexure II. The National Commission for Integrated Water Resources Development (NCIWRD) has assessed the water requirement for the year 2010 as 708 BCM and for the year 2025 as 843 BCM. State-wise requirement of water as assessed by NCIWRD for the years 2010 and 2025 is at Annexure III.

(e) to (g) The Government has not formulated any proposal to amend the Constitution and shift the subject "water" from State List to the Concurrent List in the Seventh Schedule.