

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3649
ANSWERED ON:15.12.2011
UTILISATION OF WATER IN HILLY STATES
Kashyap Shri Virender;Thakur Shri Anurag Singh

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether in hilly States, particularly in Himachal Pradesh, the State Governments are not able to utilize the water available in abundance for fulfilling the needs of potable water and for irrigation purpose due to limited resources of State Governments;
- (b) if so, whether the Union Government will take initiative in this regard to utilize the water available in abundance for the purpose of drinking and irrigation; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) to (c) Water being a State subject, State Governments conceive, plan and implement schemes for fulfilling the needs of potable water and for irrigation purposes. Due to topographic constraints in hilly States, including Himachal Pradesh, it may not be technoeconomically viable to utilize all the water available. The State Government of Himachal Pradesh has taken necessary measures to provide drinking water supply to entire 53,205 habitations by March, 2010 with the support of National Rural Drinking Water Supply Scheme. Irrigation in 0.24 million hectares area has been developed against the irrigation potential of 0.35 million hectares. Central Government provides necessary technical and financial assistance to supplement the efforts of the State Governments. Himachal Pradesh being one of the Special Category States, Central grants are provided under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) at 90% of the works component of the project cost for the irrigation projects.