

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:553

ANSWERED ON:15.03.2012

UTILISATION OF RIVER WATER

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Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has made any assessment regarding the unused water flowing through rivers into sea which is one of the causes of floods also;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of the efforts made by the Government during the last two years for the optimum utilisation of the water thus wasted; and
- (d) the success achieved therein?

Answer

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

(a)&(b) Due to seasonal, geographical and annual variation in availability of water as well as lack of adequate storage, substantial quantity of water, especially during monsoon season, remains unused and flows into sea. As per present assessment, the average annual water availability in the country is 1869 BCM. Further, it has been estimated by Central Water Commission (CWC) in the year 2009 that about 450 BCM of surface water and by Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) in the year 2009 that about 243 BCM of ground water are being utilized for various purposes. The rest of the water could be considered to be flowing down to sea.

(c)&(d) Government of India provides technical and financial assistance to the State Governments for increasing storage as well as utilization of water for irrigation, domestic and industrial uses, etc. As per available information, storage capacity of about 253 billion cubic meter (BCM) has been created in the country so far. The total estimated storage capacity of the various projects under construction is about 51 BCM. Further, the State Governments have identified various other schemes for investigation and planning and the estimated storage for such schemes is about 110 BCM.