

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
WATER RESOURCES  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5677

ANSWERED ON:10.05.2012

MISUSE OF WATER

Singh Shri Rajiv Ranjan (Lalan);Yadav Shri Dinesh Chandra

**Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Steering Committee of the Planning Commission headed by Mihir Shah has emphasized on the primary need to check the misuse of water in the country;
- (b) if so, the facts in this regard;
- (c) whether the said committee has also suggested measures to check the said misuse and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the largest misuse of water in the country is that it flows down to the sea without being utilized and if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and
- (e) the authority which has to undertake the responsibility to check this misuse?

**Answer**

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

a) & (b) The Planning Commission Steering Committee on Water Resources and Sanitation for 12th Five Year Plan headed by Dr Mihir Shah, Member (Water Resources), Planning Commission has observed that "Indian economy and society face daunting challenges in the water sector. With traditional supply augmentation options running the course, the time for complacency is long over. The demands of a rapidly industrialising economy and urbanizing society come at a time when water tables are falling and water quality issues have increasingly come to the fore. As we drill deeper for water, our groundwater gets contaminated with fluoride and arsenic. Open defecation by around 600 million people is our biggest national shame. Since drinking water and sanitation continue to be treated in separate silos, both the quality of drinking water and that of sanitation gets compromised. In urban areas, this makes a large difference to the cost of provisioning clean water to users. As untreated effluents and sewage continue to be dumped into our rivers, they get increasingly polluted. Intensity of floods is reportedly increasing in recent years. Climate change poses fresh challenges with its impacts on the hydrologic cycle. It is no wonder then that conflicts across competing uses and users of water are growing by the day. Meanwhile, water use efficiency in agriculture, which consumes around 80% of our water resources, continues to be among the lowest in the world".

(c) The Planning Commission Steering Committee has suggested measures as given in annex.

(d) 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.

(e) Under the constitutional division of power with regard to water, the State Governments has the responsibility for optimum development and management of water resources