

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
WATER RESOURCES  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:600

ANSWERED ON:17.05.2012

WATER CRISIS

Saroj Smt. Sushila;Verma Smt. Usha

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

- (a) whether the causes and effects of the deepening water crisis in the country have been identified;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Union Government thereon;
- (c) whether any assessment has been made regarding the quantum of wastage of water in the drinking water supply channel due to leakage and theft;
- (d) if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the corrective measures taken/ proposed to be taken in this regard?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND WATER RESOURCES ( SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL)

(a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF STARRED QUESTION No. +600 TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 17.5.2012 REGARDING WATER CRISIS

(a) & (b) Deepening water crisis in the country is mainly on account of rapid growth in demand for water due to population growth, urbanization and changing lifestyle, inefficient use of water and inequitable distribution. This is resulting in a situation of water stress.

Water being a State subject, several steps for augmentation, conservation and efficient management of water resources are taken up by the respective State Governments. In order to supplement the efforts of the State Governments, Government of India provides technical and financial assistance to State Governments to encourage sustainable development and efficient management of water resources through various schemes and programmes.

(c) & (d) Ministry of Urban Development (MoUD) has informed that water is lost from urban water supply systems due to leakages, categorized as physical and revenue leakages or technical and non-technical losses. The losses are due to actual physical leakage, theft, illegal connections and unaccounted water due to non-metering or incorrect metering. Several studies on these water losses, commonly called non-revenue water (NRW) indicate that they vary from 30 to 50% etc. The results of the pilot study in 28 cities of India in 2008-09 indicate the average NRW as 39%.

(e) Urban water supply is the responsibility of the State/ City Governments. However, MoUD is providing technical guidance to them in reducing water leakages through guidance notes and roll-out of service level benchmarks. Under the service level benchmarking programme initiated by the MoUD since 2008, the water supply providers are required to measure and quantify their service delivery performances, including reporting on NRW. These service level benchmarks have also been recognized by the 13th Finance Commission as one of the conditions for the Cities/ States to draw performance grants.