

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:272

ANSWERED ON:09.08.2012

SHORTAGE OF WATER

Agarwal Shri Jai Prakash;Devappa Anna Shri Shetti Raju Alias

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission has expressed concern in regard to rising shortage of water in the country and has suggested the State Governments to amend their rules to declare water resources as the national wealth;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any proposal to study about acute shortage of water in the coming five years; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) Planning Commission has informed that they have not asked the State Governments to amend their rules to declare water resources as the national wealth. However, the Approach Paper for the Twelfth Five Year Plan (2012-17) states:

"Management of water resources poses increasingly difficult challenges that will require attention in the Twelfth Plan. The total quantity of usable fresh water annually available in India is fixed, but its demand from expanding agriculture and other sectors is increasing. Water resources in many parts of the country are under severe stress leading to excessive exploitation of ground water. There is some scope for increasing water availability. While these opportunities must be fully exploited, the real solution has to come from greater efficiency in water use"

(c) & (d) There is no proposal with the Central Government to study about acute shortage of water in the coming five years. However, Ministry of Water Resources and its organisations assess water availability in the country on regular basis.