

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:294
ANSWERED ON:09.08.2012
DE SILTING OF WATER BODIES
Kateel Shri Nalin Kumar

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that the storage capacity of all kinds of water bodies has come down due to accumulation of silt;
- (b) if so, whether the Centre has conducted any study to find out the present storage capacity of all water bodies;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government is taking any steps to de-silt water bodies to increase their storage capacity;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

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

(a) Yes, Madam. The Govt. is aware that the storage capacity of all kinds of water bodies have come down due to accumulation of silt.

(b) and (c): As per the compendium on silting of reservoirs in India (2001) brought out by Central Water Commission (CWC) in respect of 144 reservoirs in the country, the weighted average annual loss in gross storage capacity due to siltation is computed as 0.44%. The abstract of the rate of siltation of these 144 reservoirs is enclosed as Annexure-I. CWC has been conducting the Capacity survey of reservoirs since VIII Plan. So far Capacity survey of 36 reservoirs has been completed. The abstract showing the details of loss in storage capacities of these reservoirs are also enclosed as Annexure-II. CWC has also conducted sedimentation studies of total 108 reservoirs using remote sensing technique to assess the live storage capacity of reservoirs in the country. The results of the reservoirs sedimentation survey of these reservoirs are enclosed as Annexure III.

(d),(e)& (f): The desilting of reservoirs on large scale has not been considered techno-economically viable as it is associated with the problems of disposal of excavated earth and high cost of repeated desilting. However, Government had approved pilot scheme for 'National project for Repair, Renovation & Restoration of Water Bodies directly linked to agriculture in January, 2005 with an estimated cost of Rs. 300 crore to be shared by the centre and state in the ratio of 3:1 for implementation during the XII Plan period. The objectives of the scheme were to restore and augment storage capacities of water bodies and also to recover an extent their lost irrigation potential. The scheme was approved for 26 district projects in 15 states with Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Rajasthan, Tamilnadu, West Bengal, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Gujarat, Kerala and Maharashtra at an estimated cost of Rs. 299.92 crore and centre grant of Rs. 197.3 crore was released to the states under the scheme. These projects were to cover 1098 water bodies with total Culturable Command Area (CCA) of Rs. 1.72 lakh hectare. The physical work for restoration has been completed in 1985 water bodies in 15 states.

Subsequently, Government had approved a State Sector Scheme for RRR of water bodies with two components (one with external assistance with an outlay of Rs. 1500 crore and second with domestic support with an outlay of Rs. 1250 crore) for implementation during XI Five Year Plan period. A sum of Rs. 811.85 crore has since been released to 12 states viz. Odisha, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh(Bundelkhand), Madhya Pradesh (Bundelkhand), Meghalaya, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan & Haryana under the scheme of RRR of water bodies with domestic support during the year 2009-10, 2010-11 and 2011-12. 3341 water bodies were taken up for restoration out of which works have been completed in 1462 water bodies. Out of 10887 water bodies taken up under the scheme of RRR of water bodies with external assistance, works have been completed in 3093 water bodies in Tamilnadu & Andhra Pradesh.