

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:998

ANSWERED ON:16.08.2012

AVAILABILITY OF WATER

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Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the per capita availability of water in the country has decreased during the last decade;
- (b) if so, the details thereof for the last three years and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the desired success could not be achieved despite constitution of a Technical Expert Committee on water solution as per the directives of the Supreme Court;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the effective steps taken/being taken by the Government to tackle the water crisis in the country and to ensure availability of requisite water for different purposes?

Answer

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

(a) Yes, Madam.

(b) The per capita water availability in the country as a whole is reducing progressively due to increase in population. The average annual per capita availability of water in the country, taking into consideration the population of the country as per the 2001 census, was 1816 cubic meters which reduced to 1545 cubic meters as per the 2011 census.

(c) & (d) Department of Science and Technology has informed that the Technical Expert Committee constituted as per the directives of the Supreme Court has succeeded in identifying technical solutions for water challenge related to per capita availability. To illustrate, the Committee has identified technical solution for a cluster covering 7937 people at Satpuli in Uttarakhand using River Bank Filtration technique. The intervention has resulted in increasing per capita water availability from 44 to 103 litres per capita per day.

(e) Several steps for augmentation, conservation and efficient management to ensure sustainability of water resources are undertaken 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. The Government of India has also launched National Water Mission with main objective as "conservation of water, minimizing wastage and ensuring its more equitable distribution both across and within States through integrated water resources development and management".