

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
WATER RESOURCES  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1999

ANSWERED ON:23.08.2012

WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba; Dharmshi Shri Babar Gajanan

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

- (a) whether many significant developments have taken place in the past few months regarding Water Resources Management (WRM) in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether India is getting seriously water-stressed and needs to act fast in this regard;
- (d) if so, whether there is an urgent need for reforms; and
- (e) if so, the sincere steps taken by the Central Government to revisit the entire gamut of WRM?

**Answer**

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

(a)&( b) The draft national water policy was discussed in the 14th National Water Board meeting held on 7th June, 2012. The policy emphasizes that "Integrated Water Resources Management (IWRM) taking river basin / sub-basin as a unit, should be the main principle for planning, development and management of water resources." The on -going schemes like Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP), Command Area Development & Water Management (CADWM) and Repair Renovation, and Restoration(RRR) are being up scaled in the 12th Five Year Plan. The Approach Paper for the Twelfth Five Year Plan has suggested for full integration of CADWM & AIBP so that they proceed on a common time frame.

(c), (d) & e) On the basis of the population indicated in 2011 census, the per capita water availability works out to be about 1545 cubic meter per year making India a water stressed country. According to Falkenmark Water Stress Indicator, water availability below 1700 cubic meter per year indicates water stress condition. Water is a State subject and it is the responsibility of the States to take necessary measures to conceive, plan, execute and manage water resources projects. 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. Government of India has launched National Water Mission with the objective of conservation of water, minimizing wastage and ensuring more equitable distribution both across and within States through integrated water resources development and management. One of the objectives of the Mission is to increase the water use efficiency by 20%. To achieve this objective, among others, CADWM programme and micro- irrigation are to receive enhanced focus in the XII plan. In addition, use of latest technology in the monitoring and implementation of the programmes and changes in the staffing pattern of irrigation departments of States to include people from a wider profile including social mobilizers have been emphasized from time to time.