

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3113
ANSWERED ON:30.08.2012
WATER LEVEL IN RESERVOIRS
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Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there are only 84 big reservoirs in the country whose water storage capacity is only 154.40 billion cubic metres;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the country gets average 4000 billion cubic metre water from rain;
- (d) if so, whether the supply of water can be raised by increasing storage of water in the country;
- (e) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard; and
- (f) the assessment made in regard to the number of traditional ponds and bodies etc. which are likely to be revived by cleansing them?

Answer

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

(a) & (b) Central Water Commission monitors live storage status of 84 reservoirs in the country. The live storage capacity of these 84 reservoirs is 154.421 Billion Cubic Metre and their detail is given at Annexure.

(c), (d) & (e) India receives an average rainfall of about 1170 mm which corresponds to an annual precipitation of 4000 Billion Cubic Metre (BCM) including snowfall. However, there is considerable variation in rainfall both temporally and spatially. Nearly 75% of this i.e. 3000 BCM occurs during the monsoon season confined to 3 to 4 months (June to September) in a year. After accounting for evaporation and evapotranspiration, the average annual water availability in the country is assessed as 1869 BCM. It is estimated that owing to topographic, hydrological and other constraints, the utilizable water is 1123 BCM which comprises of 690 BCM of surface water and 433 BCM of replenishable ground water resources. For harnessing 690 BCM of utilisable surface water, total storage built up of about 450 BCM shall be required. As per a tentative assessment carried out by the Central water Commission, the live storage capacity created in the country is 253.388 BCM. Apart from it, projects with live storage capacity of 50.74 BCM are under construction and projects with live storage capacity of 104 BCM are under consideration for construction by the various state governments. Efforts are being made by the various state governments to identify additional storage projects to make full use of available utilisable surface water resources of 690 BCM.

(f) According to Third Minor Irrigation Survey conducted by Ministry of Water Resources with reference year 2000-2001, the number of water bodies identified in the country are 5.56 lakh, out of which 2.39 are lakh public owned water bodies. It is targeted to cover in phases all public owned water bodies which require restoration.