

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1103

ANSWERED ON:25.11.2009

WATER CONSERVATION FOR IRRIGATION

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Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is an acute shortage of water for irrigation in the country which is affecting the agricultural production;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the action taken/likely to be taken by the Government for water conservation by increasing the number of the water reservoirs?

Answer

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

(a) to (c) Acute water shortage is not anticipated for the country as a whole. The average annual water availability of the country has been assessed to be about 1869 billion cubic meter (BCM). It is estimated that owing to topographic, hydrological and other constraints, about 1123 BCM can be utilised for various purposes including irrigation. The National Commission on Integrated Water Resources Development (NCIWRD) has assessed the total water requirement for various purposes as 1180 BCM by the year 2050 which includes irrigation requirement of 807 BCM. However, there are large temporal and spatial variations in the availability of water which requires measures for conservation of water and transfer of surplus water to water deficient areas. With a view to augment the water resources for utilization for various purposes, several measures are undertaken by respective State Governments which, inter-alia, include conservation of water resources through reservoir, traditional water bodies, rain water harvesting and artificial recharge to ground water. Storage capacity of about 225 billion cubic meter (BCM) has been created so far. As per present assessment, the total estimated storage capacity of the various projects under constructions is about 64 BCM. Further, the State Governments have identified various other schemes for investigation and planning and the estimated storage for such schemes is about 108 BCM.