

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:213
ANSWERED ON:22.11.2012
DWINDLING FRESH WATER SOURCES
Aaron Rashid Shri J.M.

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the country's response to pollution of water has been slow and has the capacity to treat only about 18 per cent of the sewage produced in cities and towns throughout the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether fresh water sources in the country are meagre and dwindling; and
- (d) if so, the immediate measures proposed to be taken by the Union Government to ensure clean water for its citizens throughout the country including to plug the sources of millions of tonnes of sewage, industrial and agricultural waste pumped perennially into waterways and other fresh water reserves and strict enforcement of the well recognized 'polluter pays' principle?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI HARISH RAWAT)

a) & (b) According to a recent report of the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), against an estimated sewage generation of about 38254 million litres per day (mld) from the Class I cities & Class II towns of the country, the treatment capacity is available only for 11787 mld.

(c) Central Water Commission has estimated average annual water availability in the country to be 1869 billion cubic metres. Due to rapid growth in population, industrialisation and changing lifestyle, the demand of water is increasing.

(d) Ministry of Environment and Forest administers a Centrally sponsored scheme of National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) for assisting State Governments for various pollution abatement schemes for Interception and Diversion of raw-sewage, setting up of sewage treatment plants, creation of low cost sanitation facilities, setting up of electric / improved wood crematoria and, river front development.

Ministry of Urban Development also supplements the efforts of the State Governments / Urban Local Bodies through Centrally Sponsored Schemes, namely, Jawahar Lal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission and Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme for Small and Medium Towns. Besides, Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation administers the Total Sanitation Campaign in rural areas with Solid and Liquid Waste Management as an integral component.