

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1041

ANSWERED ON:29.11.2012

DEPLETION OF RESERVOIRS

Mahajan Smt. Sumitra;Majhi Shri Pradeep Kumar;Patel Shri Kishanbhai Vestabhai;Yaskhi Shri Madhu Goud

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the water table of major water reservoirs has depleted in various parts of the country this year compared to the last three years;
- (b) if so, the comparative status of water table of reservoirs during the last three years including the current year, year and reservoir-wise;
- (c) the reasons for depletion of water- table in water reservoirs;
- (d) the extent to which irrigation and hydel power generation has been affected due to such shortfall; and
- (e) the remedial measures taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES(SHRI HARISH RAWAT)

(a) and (b) Central Water Commission (CWC) is monitoring live storage status of 84 reservoirs spread across the country and issuing weekly bulletin. A comparative statement of water level of the reservoirs monitored by CWC as on September 30 for the years 2010, 2011 and 2012 is at Annexure.

(c) The main reason for less water is less rainfall / snow melt in the catchment area of the reservoir. Apart from it, the reservoir water level depletes as the water from the reservoirs is withdrawn for utilization for various purposes by the State Government/reservoir owners.

(d) No specific information is available as the utilization of available water for various purposes is within the purview of the state governments and varies from time to time depending upon priority accorded by the state government for utilization of water for various purposes.

(e) Water being state subject, utilization of available water for various purposes is within the purview of respective state governments. However, the Ministry of Water Resources had reviewed status of monsoon on 28th June 2012 and had issued advisory to the States stating inter-alia that priority is to be given to drinking water supply and irrigation and use ground water to meet the situation to the extent possible.