

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2183
ANSWERED ON:06.12.2012
AVAILABILITY OF WATER
De Dr. Ratna

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any study or research has been conducted by the Government during the last five years to know the exact availability of water in the country considering the growing population;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the stand of the Government on the idea of water harvesting to be ensured by the common people?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI HARISH RAWAT)

(a) & (b) No, Madam. However, the Central Government has constituted a Committee in May, 2011 under Chairman, Central Water Commission to reassess the availability of water resources in the country. As per the latest assessment (Central Water Commission, 1993, accepted by Ministry of Water Resources Standing Sub-Committee, 2000) the average annual water availability for the country has been assessed as 1869 billion cubic meters (BCM). However, the utilizable water resources, considering topographic, hydrological and other constraints, has been estimated to be about 1123 BCM comprising 690 BCM of surface water and 433 BCM of replenishable ground water.

(c) Awareness programmes are launched by the Government for rainwater harvesting and artificial recharge under the Information, Education and Communication (IEC) scheme. Effectiveness of implementation of water harvesting schemes depends upon active participation of the people.