

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3441
ANSWERED ON:13.12.2012
AVAILABILITY OF WATER
Nagar Shri Surendra Singh

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) the projected demand of water per year in the country and the actual availability of annual utilizable water in the country;
- (b) the number of blocks in the States which have faced acute shortage of water during the last three years and the current year and the number out of them which have been declared as deficient areas;
- (c) the quantum of financial assistance provided to the States by the Union Government to face the said situation during the said period, State-wise; and
- (d) the action taken by the Union Government to supplement the efforts of the State Government to meet the growing demand for water?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI HARISH RAWAT)

(a) National Commission on Integrated Water Resources Development (1999) had assessed the projected demand of water per year for various uses as 843 Billion Cubic Metre (BCM) and 1180 BCM for the year 2025 and 2050 respectively. Central Water Commission had assessed the average annual water availability in the country as 1869 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.

(b) to (d) The availability of water resources is limited but demand for water is increasing due to increasing population, increasing industrialization and changing life style. As a result, several areas face water scarcity. The latest assessment of replenishable ground water resources (as on 2009) indicates that 802 assessment units (Blocks/Mandals/Taluks) fall under 'over-exploited' category, 169 units fall under 'critical' category and 523 units fall under 'semi-critical' category. Details of State wise categorization and criteria for categorization of assessment units are given in Annexure – I.

The Government of India has launched the National Water Mission with the objective of 'conservation of water, minimizing wastage and ensuring its more equitable distribution both across and within States through integrated water resources development and management'.

In addition, several steps for augmentation, conservation and efficient management to ensure sustainability of water resources are conceived, planned and implemented by the State Governments. In order to supplement the efforts of the State Governments, Government of India provides technical and financial assistance to State Governments to encourage sustainable development and efficient management of water resources through various schemes and programmes namely "Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP)", "Command Area Development and Water Management Programme", "Repair, Renovation and Restoration of Water Bodies" and Artificial Recharge to Ground Water.

The details of State wise funds released under the above mentioned schemes / programmes during the last three years (2009-10, 2010-11 & 2011-12) are at Annexures II to V respectively.