

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1661
ANSWERED ON:07.03.2013
WATER LEVEL IN DAMS
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Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether low water level in dams has hit irrigation during the last five years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor, State/UT-wise including Haryana; and
- (c) the corrective steps being taken to solve this problem permanently?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI HARISH RAWAT)

(a) & (b) Central Water Commission (CWC) monitors live storage status of 84 reservoirs spread across the country. The total live storage capacity of these reservoirs is 154.421 BCM which is about 61% of the live storage capacity of 253.388 BCM which is estimated to have been created in the country (as per assessment carried out in the CWC in 2010). The live storages available in these reservoirs at the end of monsoon for the year 2008 to 2012 are given in the following table.

Year	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
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Live storage	116.446	92.344	117.128	133.689	115.123
(in BCM)					

Reservoir wise details showing name of the reservoir, State, FRL, live storage capacity at FRL and live storage available in these reservoirs as on 30th September for the year 2008 to 2012 is given in Annexure-I. There is no reservoir of Haryana in the monitoring system of the CWC. However, as per the information furnished by Bhakra Beas Management Board, maximum & minimum level of Bhakra and Pong dams as well as deliveries to States including Haryana for the last five years is given in Annexure-II.

The broad reason for low storage in the reservoirs is lower rainfall in the catchment area of the reservoir or low snow melt in the catchment area. Apart from it, the water level of the reservoirs also gets reduced due to use of water from reservoirs for various purposes.

(c) The corrective steps to solve the problem of water scarcity during low rainfall are water management practices and water conservation. Water being state subject, utilization of water resources for various purposes is within the purview of respective state governments. However, the Ministry of Water Resources had taken a review of storage available in reservoirs vis-a-vis progress of onset of south-west monsoon in June 2012. Keeping in view possibility of delay in the onset of the monsoon and also uneven spatial distribution which may result in some areas getting less than normal rainfall, the Ministry had issued an Advisory on 09.07.2012 to all the state governments stating inter-alia that priority is to be given to drinking water supply and irrigation and judicious use of water may be made. It was also suggested that use of ground-water may be made to meet the situation to the extent possible.