

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1734
ANSWERED ON:07.03.2013
WATER STRESS IN RURAL AREAS
Choudhary Shri Harish;Singh Rajkumari Ratna

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the country is facing the water stress due to increasing population, urbanisation and industrialisation which is also affecting cattle in rural areas especially during the summer season;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the efforts made by the Government to provide the water as per requirement to the affected areas so far and the success achieved therein?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI HARISH RAWAT)

- (a) & (b) Yes, Madam. On the basis of the population indicated in 2011 census, the per capita water availability works out to be about 1,545 cubic meter per year making India a water stressed country. According to Falkenmark Water Stress Indicator, water availability below 1,700m³ per capita per year indicates water stress condition. The limited availability and growing demand of water due to increasing population, urbanisation and industrialization which has led to water stress, may also affect cattle in rural areas, especially in the summer season.
- (c) The State Governments undertake measures for conservation of water resources through reservoirs, traditional water bodies, rainwater harvesting, artificial recharge to ground water etc., and implement various schemes inter alia for adequate supply of water for rural areas, including the requirements for animals. The Central Government supplements these efforts of the State Government, both technically and financially, through various schemes like Repair Renovation and Restoration of Water Bodies.