

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1784
ANSWERED ON:07.03.2013
AVAILABILITY OF WATER
M.Thambidurai Dr.

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the total availability and the per capita availability of water for households has been declining during the last three years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof during the said period; and
- (c) the steps being taken by the Union Government to bridge the shortfall?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI HARISH RAWAT)

(a) & (b) The per capita water availability in the country as a whole is reducing progressively due to increase in population. The average annual per capita availability of water in the country, taking into consideration the population of the country as per the 2001 census, was 1816 cubic meters which decreased to 1545 cubic meters as per the 2011 census.

(c) Several steps for augmentation, conservation and efficient management to ensure sustainability of water resources are undertaken by the respective 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 such as Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP); Command Area Development and Water Management (CAD & WM); Repair Renovation and Restoration of Water Bodies; Demonstrative Projects on Rainwater Harvesting and Artificial Recharge. The Government of India has also launched National Water Mission with main objective as "conservation of water, minimizing wastage and ensuring its more equitable distribution both across and within States through integrated water resources development and management".