

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3973
ANSWERED ON:21.03.2013
WASTAGE OF RIVER WATER
Mahato Shri Narahari;Roy Shri Nripendra Nath

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Union Government is aware that a large quantity of river water goes waste into the sea and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has prepared/proposes to prepare the action plan for proper utilisation of river water before it flows into sea;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the concrete steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Union Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI HARISH RAWAT)

(a) Yes, Madam. Due to seasonal, geographical and annual variation in availability of water as well as lack of adequate storage, substantial quantity of water, especially during monsoon season, remains unused and flows into sea. As per present assessment, the average annual water availability in the country is 1869 billion cubic meters (BCM). Further, it has been estimated in the year 2009 by Central Water Commission (CWC) that about 450 BCM of surface water and by Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) that about 243 BCM of ground water are being utilized for various purposes. The rest of the water could be considered to be flowing down to sea.

(b) to (d) With a view to augmenting the water resources for utilization for various purposes, several measures are undertaken by the respective State Governments which, inter-alia, include conservation of water resources through reservoir, traditional water bodies, rain water harvesting and artificial recharge to ground water. Central Government provides technical and financial assistance to the State Governments in this regard through various schemes and programmes viz. 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, etc.