

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2976

ANSWERED ON:14.03.2013

WATER AS NATIONAL ASSET

Agarwal Shri Rajendra

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission has expressed concern over the scarcity of water in the country and suggested the State Governments to amend their rules to declare the water resources as national assets;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government proposes to conduct any study regarding acute shortage of water in next five years; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI HARISH RAWAT)

(a) & (b) The Twelfth Five Year Plan (2012-17) Document of the Planning Commission has noted that the Indian economy and society face daunting challenges in the water sector. It states that the demands of a rapidly industrializing economy and urbanizing society come at a time when the potential for augmenting supply is limited, water tables are falling and water quality issues have increasingly come to the fore.

No suggestion has been made to the State Governments to amend their rules to declare water resources as national asset

(c) & (d) The Central Government has constituted a Committee in May, 2011 under Chairman, Central Water Commission to reassess the availability of water resources in the country. As per the latest assessment (Central Water Commission, 1993, accepted by Ministry of Water Resources Standing Sub- Committee, 2000) the average annual water availability for the country has been assessed as 1869 billion cubic meters (BCM). However, the utilizable water resources, considering topographic, hydrological and other constraints, has been estimated to be about 1121 BCM comprising 690 BCM of surface water and 431 BCM of replenishable ground water.

The National Commission for Integrated Water Resources Development (NCIWRD), in its report in 1999, had assessed that the annual water requirement by the year 2025 and 2050 will be about 843 BCM and 1180 BCM respectively.