

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4074
ANSWERED ON:21.03.2013
INEQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF WATER
Kurup Shri N.Peethambara

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that there is a large scale inequitable distribution of water in various parts of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof indicating the action taken by the Government;
- (c) whether the Government has carried out any survey in the country including the State of Kerala to find out per capita availability of water during the last three years;
- (d) if so, the outcome of such survey and follow up action taken by the Government in this regard;
- (e) whether the Government has formulated any perspective plan to identify new water resources in the country; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI HARISH RAWAT)

(a) Yes, Madam.

(b) Water availability in India is dependent on the South-West and North-East monsoons with rainfall varying from over 10,000 mm in North East to less than 100 mm in North West parts.

Ministry of Water Resources supplements the efforts of the State Governments to facilitate construction of dams, check dams and farm ponds to store rainwater for different uses and for efficient management of water resources through various schemes / programmes such as Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programmes (AIBP); Command Area Development and Water Management (CAD & WM); Repair, Renovation and Restoration of Water Bodies and Demonstrative Projects on Rainwater Harvesting and Artificial Recharge.

The National Water Development Agency (NWDA), established under Ministry of Water Resources as an autonomous society in July, 1982, is engaged in carrying out water balance studies and link canals studies for diversion of surplus waters to water deficit areas including inter basin transfers.

(c) & (d) The average annual water availability in the country has been assessed as 1869 billion cubic meters (BCM). Taking into consideration the population of the country as per the 2011 census, the average annual per capita water availability comes to Rs. 1545 cubic meters. State-wise per capita water availability has not been assessed.

(e) & (f) The availability of water resources is limited. Therefore emphasis needs to be laid on augmenting the utilisable water. The draft National Water Policy, 2012 has recommended direct use of rainfall, desalination and avoidance of inadvertent evapo transpiration as new strategies for augmenting utilisable water resources. The Government has launched a National Water Mission with the objective of 'conservation of water, minimizing wastage and ensuring its more equitable distribution both across and within States through integrated water resources development and management'. One of the goals of National Water Mission is 'increasing water use efficiency by 20%'.