

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4086

ANSWERED ON:21.03.2013

STORAGE OF RESERVOIRS

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Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the water level of major reservoirs has reduced this year as compared to the last three years;
- (b) if so, the comparative data of water level of each of the reservoirs during the last three years and the current year, year and reservoir-wise;
- (c) the reasons for gradual decrease in the water level of reservoirs; and
- (d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI HARISH RAWAT)

(a) & (b) Central Water Commission (CWC) monitors live storage status of 84 reservoirs spread across the country. At the end of monsoon 2012 (September 30), the water level in the 63 reservoirs of the above stated 84 reservoirs was less than that of last year at the end of monsoon. The details of water level at the end of monsoon in 84 reservoirs monitored by CWC for the year 2009 to 2012 are at Annexure-1.

From the total storage available in these reservoirs at the end of the monsoon for the period between 2009 & 2012, though there is some variation in the storages but that do not reflect the declining trend as per hydrological consideration.

(c) The broad reason for low storage in the reservoirs is lower rainfall in the catchment area of the reservoir or low snow melt in the catchment area. Apart from it, the water level of the reservoirs also gets reduced due to use of water from reservoirs for various purposes.

(d) The corrective steps to solve the problem of water scarcity during low rainfall are water management practices and water conservation. Water being state subject, utilization of water resources for various purposes is within the purview of respective state governments. However, the Ministry of Water Resources had taken a review of storage available in reservoirs vis-a-vis progress of onset of south-west monsoon in June 2012. Keeping in view possibility of delay in the onset of the monsoon and also uneven spatial distribution which may result in some areas getting less than normal rainfall, the Ministry had issued an Advisory on 09.07.2012 to all the state governments stating inter-alia that priority is to be given to drinking water supply and irrigation and judicious use of water may be made. It was also suggested that use of ground-water may be made to meet the situation to the extent possible.