

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4029

ANSWERED ON:21.03.2013

WATER LEVEL IN RIVERS

Bhagat Shri Sudarshan;Jaiswal Shri Gorakh Prasad ;Kurup Shri N.Peethambara;Singh Rajkumari Ratna

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the water level of various rivers in the country is gradually decreasing and some of them have dried up;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor, river and State/UT-wise;
- (c) the quantum of river water utilized every year for irrigation and drinking separately, river and State/UT-wise;
- (d) whether any assessment of the water crisis in the country has been made;
- (e) if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise; and
- (f) the action taken/proposed to be taken by the Union Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI HARISH RAWAT)

(a) & (b) There are two types of rivers in the country:(i) perennial rivers and (ii) non-perennial rivers. Non-perennial rivers are rainfed rivers in which water flows during the monsoon season and get dried during summer season. In perennial rivers, water remains available throughout the year. No perennial river has gone dried as per analysis of hydrological data available in Central Water Commission (CWC).

(c) The demand of water assessed for irrigation and drinking water by the National Commission on Integrated Water Resources Development (India) (NCIWRD) is given in the following table:

(In BCM)

Sector (High Demand) 2025 2050

Irrigation 611 807

Drinking water 62 111

The river basin-wise requirement (High Demand) of water in 2050 is given in Annex I and the State/ UTs-wise requirement (High Demand) of water in 2025 and 2050 is given in Annex II.

(d) & (e) Assessment of water crisis has been made in the country during 2012-13. During monsoon 2012, the following 13 meteorological sub-divisions out of 36 sub-divisions in the country as shown below, received deficient rainfall as per information provided by the India Meteorological Department (IMD):

S.N. Met. Sub-division Normal Rainfall (mm) Actual Rainfall (mm) % Variation

1 Nagaland, Manipur, 1497 1030 -31
Mizoram & Tripura

2 Bihar	1028	814	-21
3 West Uttar Pradesh	769	549	-29
4 Haryana, Chandigarh and Delhi	466	283	-39
5 Punjab	492	266	-46
6 Gujarat Region	901	648	-28
7 Saurashtra, Kutchchh & Diu	473	311	-34
8 Madhya Maharashtra	729	543	-25
9 Marathwada	683	457	-33
10 Tamil Nadu & Pondichery	317	243	-23
11 North Interior Karnataka	506	326	-36
12 South Interior Karnataka	660	509	-23
13 Kerala	2040	1548	-24

Deficient Rainfall: -20 to -59% of normal rainfall

(f) Irrigation, being a State subject, planning, execution, operation and maintenance of irrigation projects are being carried out by the State Governments from their own resources and as per their own requirements and priority of works. However, Union Government provides technical and financial assistance to State Governments under Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP), Command Area Development and Water Management Programme (CAD&WM) and Repair, Renovation and Restoration of Water Bodies (RRR). Under AIBP, the financial assistance is provided for expeditious completion of on-going irrigation projects which results in creation of storage capacity thereby reducing water crisis in irrigation sector. The financial assistance is provided under the scheme of CAD&WM for efficient use of available water thus increasing availability of water for various uses and the financial assistance is provided under RRR for restoration of lost storage potential of water bodies. All these programmes are being reformed and up scaled during XII Plan.

During water crisis, Ministry of Water Resources takes a review of storage available in reservoirs vis-a- vis progress of onset of south west monsoon. Keeping in view the 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 issues an Advisory 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 is also suggested to the State Governments and UTs to make the judicious use of ground water to the extent possible to meet the situation.