

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3967
ANSWERED ON:21.03.2013
REDUCTION IN STORAGE DUE TO SILTING
Ramshankar Dr.

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware of reduction in storage capacity of water bodies of all types due to silting;
- (b) if so, whether the Union Government has conducted any study to assess the existing storage capacity of all water bodies;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government is taking any steps for their desilting to increase the storage capacity of these water bodies; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI HARISH RAWAT)

(a) Yes, Madam.

(b) & (c) As per the compendium on silting of reservoirs in India (2001) brought out by Central Water Commission (CWC) in respect of 144 reservoirs in the country, the weighted average annual loss in gross storage capacity due to siltation is computed as 0.44%. The abstract of the rate of siltation of these 144 reservoirs is enclosed as Annexure-I. CWC has been conducting the Capacity survey of reservoirs since VIII Plan. So far Capacity survey of 36 reservoirs has been completed. The abstract showing the details of loss in storage capacities of these reservoirs are also enclosed as Annexure-II. CWC has also conducted sedimentation studies of total 108 reservoirs using remote sensing technique to assess the live storage capacity of reservoirs in the country. The results of the reservoirs sedimentation survey of these reservoirs are enclosed as Annexure III.

(d) & (e) The desilting of reservoirs on large scale has not been considered techno-economically viable as it is associated with the problems of disposal of excavated earth and high cost of repeated desilting. However, Government had approved pilot scheme for 'National project for Repair, Renovation & Restoration of Water Bodies directly linked to agriculture in January, 2005 with an estimated cost of Rs. 300 crore to be shared by the centre and state in the ratio of 3:1 for implementation during the X Plan period. The objectives of the scheme were to restore and augment storage capacities of water bodies and also to recover an extent their lost irrigation potential. The scheme was approved for 26 district projects in 15 states with Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Odisha, Rajasthan, Tamilnadu, West Bengal, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Gujarat, Kerala and Maharashtra at an estimated cost of Rs. 299.92 crore and centre grant of Rs. 197.3 crore was released to the states under the scheme. These projects were to cover 1098 water bodies with total Culturable Command Area (CCA) of Rs. 1.72 lakh hectare. The physical work for restoration has been completed in 1985 water bodies in 15 states. The work on remaining 13 water bodies has been dropped.

Subsequently, Government had approved a State Sector Scheme for RRR of water bodies with two components (one with external assistance with an outlay of Rs. 1500 crore and second with domestic support with an outlay of Rs. 1250 crore) for implementation during XI Five Year Plan period. A sum of Rs. 852.289 crore has since been released to 12 states viz. Odisha, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh(Bundelkhand), Madhya Pradesh (Bundelkhand), Meghalaya, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan & Haryana under the scheme of RRR of water bodies with domestic support till date. 3341 water bodies were taken up for restoration out of which works have been completed in 1736 water bodies. Out of 10887 water bodies taken up in four states namely, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Odisha under the scheme of RRR of water bodies with external assistance, works have been completed in 4244 water bodies.

The scheme for continuation in XII Plan is under finalization.