

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4897
ANSWERED ON:25.04.2013
WATER LEVEL IN RESERVOIRS
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Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether water level of the major reservoirs has decreased during this year in comparison to the previous three years in various parts of the country;
- (b) if so, the year and reservoir-wise comparative data of water level of each reservoir during the last three years and the current year;
- (c) the reasons for decreasing water level in such reservoirs; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI HARISH RAWAT)

(a) to (d) Central Water Commission monitors live storage of 84 important reservoirs spread across the country. The total live storage capacity of these reservoirs is 154.421 Billion Cubic Meter (BCM). The live storage available in these reservoirs as on 18th April in the year 2010 to 2013, are given in the following table:

SN Date Live Storage in 84 % w.r.t Live
Reservoirs (BCM) Storage Capacity

1 18.4.2013 44.774 29

2 18.4.2012 43.889 28

3 18.4.2011 51.164 33

4 18.4.2010 34.733 22

Thus, from above table, it may be concluded that storage available this year is slightly better than last year. However, compared to the year 2011, the storage is lesser. The storage is better than that was available in 2010. The details are given in Annex-I.

The water level in reservoirs varies from year to year mainly depending on the rainfall and operation of reservoirs to meet the demands for various purposes. Water being State subject, utilization of available water in reservoirs for various purposes is within the purview of the 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.