

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5962

ANSWERED ON:02.05.2013

DIVERSION OF WATER

Deo Shri Kalikesh Narayan Singh;Reddy Shri Modugula Venugopala

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether certain States have permitted beverage companies to use water from canals which are primarily meant for drinking and irrigation purpose of the farmers and the people of the respective areas;
- (b) if so, the details thereof including the total quantity of water being used by these companies from those canals and the revenue earned by the respective State Governments as a result thereof during the last two years and the current year, State and year-wise;
- (c) the steps taken or being taken by the Union Government to protect the interests of the farmers and the people of the respective areas;
- (d) whether the Government is developing any mechanism to stop water going waste by draining into the sea, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) whether the Government has undertaken any measures to ensure access of drinking water to people deprived of it, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI HARISH RAWAT)

- (a) & (b) State Governments/ Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) make allocations of water for different uses viz drinking, irrigation, industrial etc. within their jurisdiction as per availability, demand and inter alia the relevant guidelines in the National Water Policy. Details in respect of States which have permitted beverage companies to use water from canals are not maintained by the Central Government.
- (c) The National Water Policy, 2012 recommends that 'Safe Water for drinking and sanitation should be considered as pre-emptive needs, followed by high priority allocation for other basic domestic needs (including needs of animals), achieving food security, supporting sustenance agriculture and minimum eco-system needs', and that 'available water, after meeting the above needs, should be allocated in a manner to promote its conservation and efficient use'.
- (d) Several measures for increasing the storage capacity are taken up by the State Governments, viz, construction of dams, check dams and farm ponds. Government of India supplements the efforts of the State Governments for increasing storage capacity through programmes like Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme, Repair, Renovation and Restoration of Water Bodies, Integrated Watershed Management Programme and the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act.
- (e) The Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation administers through the States the centrally sponsored scheme, National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) for providing financial and technical assistance to the States to supplement their efforts to provide drinking water to the rural areas. The State Governments are vested with powers to plan, execute and implement drinking water supply schemes under NRDWP.

Ministry of Urban Development is supplementing the efforts of State Governments/Urban Local Bodies in providing water supply in Urban areas/Metropolitan cities under the schemes/ programmes such as Jawahar Lal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission, North Eastern Region Urban Development Programme, Non-Lapsable Central Pool of Resources and Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme in Satellite Towns.