

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:911

ANSWERED ON:08.08.2013

WATER CRISIS

Choudhary Shri Harish;Singh Rajkumari Ratna

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government is aware of the prevailing scarcity of water for drinking and irrigation purpose in various parts of the country; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps being taken/proposed to be taken by the Union Government to overcome the same, State/UT-wise?

Answer

THE MINISTER FOR WATER RESOURCES (SHRI HARISH RAWAT)

(a) & (b) The availability of water resources is limited but demand for water in the country is increasing due to increasing population, increasing industrialization and changing life style. As a result, water has become a relatively scarce resource in some areas of the country.

Various steps for augmentation, conservation and efficient management to ensure sustainability of water resources are undertaken by the respective State Governments. In order to supplement the efforts of the State Governments, Government of India provides technical and financial assistance to State Governments to encourage sustainable development and efficient management of water resources through various schemes and programmes. The Government of India has also launched National Water Mission with main objective as "conservation of water, minimizing wastage and ensuring its more equitable distribution both across and within States through integrated water resources development and management".

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.