

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2244
ANSWERED ON:22.08.2013
RIVER WATER USAGE
Tanwar Shri Ashok

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) the quantum of river water put to use in the country;
- (b) the details of schemes/programmes undertaken for optimal utilisation of water resources, including river water;
- (c) whether the Government is aware of the extinction of some rivers/water bodies in different parts of the country;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether any data is available with regard to the loss of water resources in the country;
- (f) if so, the details thereof, State/UTwise; and (g) the steps taken by the Government to remedy the same by rain water harvesting, etc.?

Answer

THE MINISTER FOR WATER RESOURCES (SHRI HARISH RAWAT)

(a) It has been estimated in the year 2009 by Central Water Commission (CWC) that about 450 billion cubic meters (BCM) of surface water and by Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) that about 243 BCM of ground water are being utilized for various purposes.

(b) Several 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 such as Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP); Command Area Development and Water Management (CAD & WM); Repair Renovation and Restoration of Water Bodies. 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".

(c) & (d) According to the 3rd Minor Irrigation Census conducted by Ministry of Water Resources, about 0.85 lakh out of total 5.56 lakh tanks and storages are not in use due to one reason or the other.

(e) & (f) As per the data analysed by Central Water Commission (CWC), the observed data of average water availability in major rivers before 1985 and after 1985, no trend could be established regarding reduction in average water availability in the river basin.

Central Ground Water Board has assessed the annual replenishable ground water resource as 433.02 BCM and 431.03 BCM in the years 2004 and 2009 respectively. State / UTs wise details of annual replenishable ground water resource as in the years 2004 and 2009 is given at Annexure.

(g) Central Ground Water Board is encouraging water harvesting and re-use of water in all those areas, including big cities and industrial clusters, where either ground water levels are declining or the areas fall under over exploited, critical, semi critical stage of ground water development.

Ministry of Water Resources has circulated a Model Bill to all the States/ Union Territories to regulate and control development and management of ground water, which also contains a chapter on rain water harvesting for ground water recharge. As per information available, roof top rain water harvesting has been made mandatory to check the depletion of ground water in the States/ Union Territories of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Goa, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Nagaland, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, West Bengal, Chandigarh, Daman & Diu, NCT Delhi and Puducherry. In UT of Andaman & Nicobar, roof top rain water harvesting has been made mandatory in Port Blair Town. In Jharkhand, roof top rain water harvesting has been made mandatory in Ranchi urban area.