

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
WATER RESOURCES  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:205

ANSWERED ON:05.12.2013

PER CAPITA AVAILABILITY OF WATER

Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji; Adsul Shri Anandrao Vithoba; Dharmshi Shri Babar Gajanan; Kateel Shri Nalin Kumar; Yadav Shri Dharmendra

**Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the annual per capita availability of water has decreased from 1,816 cubic metre in 2001 to 1,545 cubic metre in 2011, if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise;
- (b) whether various Central Ministries have resolved to chalk out a joint strategy to ensure efficient use of the natural resource and devise a mechanism of 'water audit' for various users, if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to conduct an audit done by an autonomous body to ensure best practices of water use in industries, agriculture and municipal bodies, if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) has called for urgent action to deal with the situation through 'water use efficiency', and if so, the steps taken/ proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard; and
- (e) whether the Government has taken/ proposes to take any step to create awareness about water use and to save water and if so, the details thereof ?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI HARISH RAWAT)

- (a) Yes, Madam. The per capita water availability in the country as a whole is reducing due to increase in population. The average annual per capita availability of water in the country, taking into consideration the population of the country as per the 2001 census, was 1816 cubic meters which decreased to 1545 cubic meters as per the 2011 census. State-wise details of per capita water availability are, however, not maintained by the Ministry of Water Resources.
- (b) The National Water Resources Council, inter-alia comprising of Union Ministries dealing with water, at its meeting held on 28th December, 2012 had adopted the National Water Policy (2012), wherein several recommendations have been made for development and efficient management of water resources in the country. The National Water Policy (2012), inter-alia, recommends a system to evolve bench marks for water uses for different purposes., i.e. water footprint and water auditing to promote and incentivize efficient use of water.
- (c) No, Madam.
- (d) Ministry of Water Resources has not received any specific reference from The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) regarding urgent action on water use efficiency.
- (e) Yes, Madam. Ministry of Water Resources organizes mass awareness programs and water management training programs, which include topics on water conservation and other aspects of water management. Activities like mass awareness and training programmes, painting competition, displaying models in exhibitions and fairs, display of hoardings at prominent public places etc. are regularly being taken up by Ministry of Water Resources. The Government of India has also declared year 2013 as 'Water Conservation Year' in which several awareness activities like workshops, training programmes, publicity in print and electronic media, talk shows competition etc. are being organized on water conservation and its sustainable management.