

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
PLANNING  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2094  
ANSWERED ON:18.12.2013  
WATER CRISIS  
Agarwal Shri Rajendra

**Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether the Planning Commission has expressed its concern over the rising water shortage in the country and has urged the States to amend their rules to declare water resources as national wealth;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether any study has been conducted or proposed to be conducted to assess water shortage in the coming years; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE FOR PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS & PLANNING (SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA)

(a) and (b): The Planning Commission in the Twelfth Five Year Plan Document has expressed concern over the rising water shortage, since the amount of water available is more or less constant. Rising demands due to increasing population and economic growth will strain the demand–supply balance . However, States have not been urged to amend their rules to declare water resources as a national wealth. The National Water Policy (2012) states "Planning, development and management of water resources need to be governed by common integrated perspective considering local, regional, State and national context, having an environmentally sound basis, keeping in view the human, social and economic needs"

(c) and (d): The average annual water availability for the country has been assessed as 1869 billion cubic meter(BCM). However, the utilizable water resources, considering topographic hydrological and other constraints, has been estimated to be about 1121 BCM comprising 690 BCM from surface water and 431 BCM from replenishable groundwater.

The National Commission for Integrated Water Resources Development (NCIWRD) in its report in 1999, has assessed that the annual water requirement for the years 2010, 2025 and 2050 will be about 710 BCM, 843 BCM and 1180 BCM respectively.