

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3642

ANSWERED ON:13.02.2014

SCARCITY OF WATER

Patil Shri A.T. Nana;Singh Alias Pappu Singh Shri Uday

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has worked out any strategy to deal with inefficient water consumption particularly keeping in view the forecast of acute water shortage in the country by 2050;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps proposed to be taken to implement the same;

(c) whether the Union Government proposes to have detailed discussions with the State Governments and to find out a mechanism to deal with the impending water crisis; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE HON'BLE MINISTER OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE AND WATER RESOURCES (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD)

(a) & (b) The average annual water availability for the country has been assessed as 1869 billion cubic meters (BCM). Due to topographic, hydrological and other constraints, the utilizable water has been estimated to be about 1121 BCM, comprising of 690 BCM surface water and 431 BCM of replenishable ground water. The National Commission for Integrated Water Resources Development (NCIWRD), in its report in 1999, assessed that the annual water requirement by the year 2025 and 2050 will be about 843 BCM and 1180 BCM respectively.

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 through various schemes and programmes.

Government of India has launched the National Water Mission with the objective of 'conservation of water, minimizing wastage and ensuring its more equitable distribution both across and within States through integrated water resources development and management'. One of the Goals of National Water Mission is 'increasing water use efficiency by 20%'. Further, Government of India has formulated the National Water Policy, 2012 wherein several recommendations have been made for conservation, development and management of water resources in the country. Copies of the National Water Policy, 2012 have been forwarded to all State Governments/UTs and concerned Ministries/Departments of Central Government for appropriate action.

(c) & (d) Consultations with representatives of State Governments are periodically held at various Conferences/Meetings including meetings of National Water Resources Council and National Water Board, etc. to discuss the problems associated with the water sector and measures needed to resolve them. The Central Government has also constituted a National Forum of Water Resources/Irrigation Ministers of States for sharing of ideas, facilitating support to new and innovative ideas and evolving consensus for better water governance in the country.

Further, the National Water Mission, Ministry of Water Resources has requested State Governments/UTs for creation of State Water Missions for successfully implementing Mission objectives and to consider aligning the programmes and schemes of the State in the Water Sector with the goals of the National Water Mission.