GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2096
ANSWERED ON:02.12.2009
WATER FLOW IN MAJOR RIVERS
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Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the water flow in major rivers in the country including river Ganga indicates a decreasing trend particularly during lean period;

(b) if so, the decreasing trend of each of the major rivers during normal period and lean period separately, during the last three years and the current year;

(c) the reasons for such decrease, river-wise; and

(d) the concrete measures taken by the Government to maintain normal water flow in major rivers and their tributaries?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES(SHRI VINCENT H. PALA)

(a) The analysis of the flow data carried out by Central Water Commission indicates that the flow in the river vary from year to year primarily due to variation in the rainfall in the catchment area. The analysis of long term data of major rivers do not indicate significant declining trend.

(b)and(c) The availability of water through river flow in 81 important reservoirs is monitored by Central Water Commission. The maximum live storage capacity attained in the 81 important reservoirs as a whole during the last three years and during 2009- 10 are as under.

Year	Maximum live storage capacity attained in billion cubic meters (BCM)
2006-07	120.451
2007-08	124.867
2008-09	112.688
2009-10 (till date)	97.014

The variation in the maximum live storage capacity may be attributed to monsoon rainfall observed during the respective years. The average monsoon rainfall for the country as a whole during the years 2006, 2007, 2008 and 2009 have been reported by India Meteorological Department (IMD) to be 886.6 millimeters (mm), 944.6 mm, 877.4 mm and 698.1 mm respectively. The information about maximum live storage capacity attained during the last 3 years in respect of important river basins is annexed.

(d) The occurrence of the rainfall and the generation of river flow is a natural phenomenon. However, due emphasis has been laid in the National Water Policy on conservation of water resources. The National Water Policy states that "the resources should be conserved and the availability augmented by maximizing retention, eliminating pollution and minimizing losses".

ANNEX

BASIN-WISE INFORMATION ABOUT MAXIMUM STORAGE CAPACITY ATTAINED IN 81 IMPORTANT RESERVOIRS

River Basin	Maximum storage capacity (in billion cubic meters) attained		
	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
Ganga	16.629	15.533	10.963
Indus	9.676	13.416	7.079
Narmada	11.333	9.117	11.461
Tapi	7.272	5.692	3.960
Mahi	3.720	2.322	2.179
Sabarmati	0.721	0.260	0.217
Rivers of kutch	0.813	0.521	0.244
Godavari	12.391	9.640	4.282
Krishna	30.423	29.636	29.770
Mahanadi and neighbouring EFRS	11.664	11.833	9.946
Cauvery and neighbouring EFRS	7.215	5.167	5.776
West flowing rivers of South	13.010	9.551	11.137

Total	124.867	112.688	97.014