

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
WATER RESOURCES  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4298

ANSWERED ON:16.12.2009

WATER FLOWING IN THE SEA

Chavan Shri Harischandra Deoram;Pratap Narayanrao Shri Sonawane

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

- (a) whether a large quantity of river water goes waste into the sea;
- (b) if so, whether the Government has prepared/proposes to prepare action plan for proper utilisation of water before it flows into sea;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and.
- (d) the concrete steps taken by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

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

(a) The average annual precipitation is estimated as 4000 Billion Cubic Metre (BCM) in the country. After accounting for the natural process evaporation etc., the average annual water availability in the country is assessed as 1869 BCM. It is estimated that owing to topographic, hydrological and other constraints, the utilizable water is 1123 BCM which comprises of 690 BCM of surface water and 433 BCM of replenishable ground water resources. As per the available assessment, about 450 BCM of surface water and 231 BCM of ground water resources is being utilized for diverse purposes. Rest of the water could be considered to be flowing down to sea. The assessment of available water resources has been made river basin-wise.

(b) to (d) With a view to, optimally utilize the available resources, several measures for development and management of water resources are undertaken by the respective State Governments which include creation of storages, restoration of water bodies, rain water harvesting, artificial recharge to ground water and adoption of better management practices etc. Storage capacity of about 225 Billion Cubic Metre (BCM) has been created so far. As per present assessment, the total estimated storage capacity of the various projects under construction is about 64 BCM. Further, the State Governments have identified various other schemes for investigation and planning and the estimated storage for such scheme is about 108 BCM. State Governments conceive, plan and implement major and medium irrigation projects and minor schemes (both surface and ground water) for utilization of water resources. Government of India is providing central assistance to the State Governments through various schemes/programmes, such as Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP); Command Area Development and Water Management (CADWM) Programme; scheme for Repair, Renovation and Restoration of Water Bodies etc. The Ministry of Water Resources encourages conservation of water including measures such as traditional water conservation practices, rainwater harvesting and recharge to ground water and adoption of better management practices. A scheme for artificial recharge to ground water through dugwell in hard rock areas in seven States namely Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu has also been launched.