

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:390
ANSWERED ON:16.12.2009
WATER CRISIS IN THE COUNTRY
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Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether various parts of the country are facing water crisis;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) the names of the various projects launched by the Government to address the problem during the last three years and the current year, State-wise, and the success achieved as a result thereof;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to formulate targeted action plan for sustainable and efficient water conservation and management; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND WATER RESOURCES(SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL)

(a) to (e) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. +390 TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 16.12.2009 REGARDING WATER CRISIS IN THE COUNTRY

For the country as a whole, the average annual water availability has been assessed as 1869 billion cubic meter (BCM). Owing to topographic, hydrological and other constraints, the utilizable water is assessed as 1123 BCM. The National Commission on Integrated Water Resources Development (NCIWRD) has assessed the total water requirement for various purposes as 694 to 710 BCM, 784 to 843 BCM, and 973 to 1180 BCM by the years 2010, 2025 and 2050 respectively, depending on low demand and high demand scenario. However, the availability of water varies from year to year and there are considerable spatial and temporal variations. There has been deficient monsoon rainfall in the country as a whole during the year 2009. As per the information provided by India Meteorological Department (IMD), monsoon rainfall is deficient in 19 States during 2009. The overall deficiency in the rainfall during monsoon period of 2009 is -22%. The data in respect of 81 reservoirs monitored by Central Water Commission also indicate that the total live storage capacity at the end of the monsoon season 2009 was about 10 percent less than the last ten years average live storage.

National Water Policy states that water resources available to the country should be brought within the category of utilizable resources to the maximum possible extent. The policy further states that non-conventional methods for utilization of water such as through inter-basin transfers, artificial recharge to ground water and desalination of brackish or sea water as well as traditional conservation practices like rainwater harvesting, including roof-top rainwater harvesting, need to be practiced to further increase the utilizable water resources and that promotion of frontier research and development, in a focused manner, for these techniques is necessary.

Several measures have been initiated by the respective State Governments for conservation of water which inter-alia include storage of water in reservoirs and traditional water bodies, rainwater harvesting and artificial recharge to ground water. Government of India provides assistance under various programmes. Assistance is provided to States under

Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP), which has been launched during 1996-97 for early completion of on-going major and medium irrigation projects and also for taking up new minor irrigation scheme in special category States, undivided KBK districts of Orissa and drought prone / tribal areas of non- special category States. The projects for inclusion under AIBP are proposed by the respective State Governments. During the current year and the last 3 years, a total of 72 major and medium projects and 4752 minor irrigation schemes have been included under AIBP and about Rs. 18,493 crores has been released to various State Governments under AIBP. A centrally sponsored scheme for Command Area Development and Water Management (CAD&WM) has also been implemented from 1974-75 to 2007-08. CAD&WM is being implemented as State sector scheme since 2008-09. During the current year and the last 3 years, a total of about Rs. 988 crores has been released to States. Government of India has also sanctioned scheme for Repair, Renovation and Restoration (RRR) of Water Bodies during XI Plan and total central assistance released to States under the scheme is about Rs. 248 crores. A scheme for artificial recharge to ground water through dug wells in hard rock areas in seven States namely Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Karnataka, Rajasthan and Tamil Nadu has also been approved during XI Plan. Rs. 208.59 crores has so far been released to the beneficiaries. States-wise details of the fund released

under AIBP, CAD&WM, RRR of Water Bodies and the scheme for artificial recharge to ground water through dug wells are at Annexure-I to Annexure-IV respectively. Central Ground Water Board also undertakes demonstrative programmes for rainwater harvesting and artificial recharge to ground water.

In consultation with the States and other stakeholders, the Ministry of Water Resources has drafted the Mission Document for National Water Mission – one of the eight national missions envisaged under National Action Plan on Climate Change. The five goals identified for the National Water Mission are: (a) comprehensive water data base in public domain and assessment of impact of climate change on water resources; (b) promotion of citizen and State action for water conservation, augmentation and preservation; (c) focused attention to over-exploited areas; (d) increasing water use efficiency by 20%; and (e) promotion of basin level integrated water resources management.