

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANAGA REJUVENATION
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:56
ANSWERED ON:26.02.2015
WATER STRESSED STATES
Birla Shri Om;Chaudhary Shri P.P.

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANAGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of arid and water stressed States in the country along with the surface and ground water available in these States, State/UT-wise;
- (b) whether the Government is aware that certain States are not getting their share of water from the neighbouring States, if so, the details thereof and action taken thereon;
- (c) whether the Government proposes to provide additional assistance to Rajasthan to meet its water requirement for drinking and irrigation purposes and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) whether the Government proposes to formulate any scheme to conserve river water, for the benefit of Rajasthan and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION
(PROF.SANWAR LAL JAT)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. 56 TO BE ANSWERED ON 26.02.2015 REGARDING WATER STRESSED STATES

(a) In India, arid lands are spread over an area of about 38.7 million hectare (Mha) consisting of hot and cold arid regions. Out of this 7 Mha is in cold arid zone and 31.7 Mha is in hot arid zone. The major part of hot arid region is in the northwest portion occupying about 28.57 Mha while remaining about 3.13 Mha of hot arid lands fall in the Southern portion. The States of Rajasthan and Gujarat have 62% and 19.6% of total hot arid area of the country which is water stressed. The State-wise details of arid areas and availability of surface and ground water is given at Annexure-I.

(b) Under Article 262 of the Constitution of India, Parliament has enacted Inter- State Water Disputes Act, 1956 for adjudication of disputes relating to waters of inter -State rivers and river valley thereof. On the basis of complaints made by the State Governments, on the use, share and distribution of water of the inter-State river, the Government has constituted eight Tribunals so far to settle water disputes among the States under the Inter- State River Water Disputes (ISRWD) Act, 1956. The details of these Tribunals are given at Annexure-II.

The shares of the basin states in a river basin are normally decided either by agreement among the basin states or by decisions of a tribunal and are given effect to by themselves. In certain cases regulatory bodies/supervisory committees with participation of representatives of the concerned basin states are also established to facilitate the implementation of the terms of agreement /decision of Tribunal. The concerned states raise the demands as per requirement before such bodies/ committees which regulate the supply of water as per availability and resolve the issues in this regard, if any.

(c) & (d) Water Resource Projects and schemes to conserve river water are planned, funded, executed and maintained by the State Governments themselves as per their own resources and priorities. The Central Government provides Central Assistance (CA) under Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) as per guide- lines of AIBP for completion of ongoing major, medium, minor irrigation and command area development projects on the request of State Government. The Central assistance of about Rs. 2133 crore has been released to Rajasthan under AIBP till date.

Central Assistance (CA) is also provided to the States for Repair, Renovation and Restoration (RRR) of water bodies as per the guidelines of the scheme.

Under RRR scheme, CA of Rs. 7.07 crore was released to the Government of Rajasthan during 2011-2012 for completion of 16 water bodies out of which the works of 15 water bodies have been completed and irrigation potential of 1469.50 hectares has been restored. Further, 32 water bodies of Rajasthan have been included under RRR scheme during 2014-15. The release of funds for these water bodies shall depend upon the proposal from the State Government in this regard.

For drinking water schemes, the funds under National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) are made at the end of the financial year after taking into account the requirement of the State, the extent of expenditure of funds already released and availability of savings at the National level.