

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5994  
ANSWERED ON:30.04.2015  
WATER BODIES  
Scindia Shri Jyotiraditya Madhavrao

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

- (a) the number of water bodies in the country and their annual capacity;
- (b) whether the Government has made any assessment with regard to the available water resources and demand of water in urban and rural areas; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the follow up steps proposed to be taken thereon?

**Answer**

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

(a) The Ministry collects information on those water bodies only, which either function as surface flow minor irrigation schemes or on which, there are minor irrigation schemes (either in-use or out- of- use). Accordingly, as per the information collected in the 4th Minor Irrigation Census, number of water bodies used for minor irrigation in the country was 5,23,816 with total storage capacity of 8.614 Billion Cubic Meters (BCM).

(b) & (c) Central Water Commission has assessed the average annual water availability in the country as 1869 Billion Cubic Meters (BCM). However, the utilizable water resources, considering topographic, hydrological and other constraints, has been estimated to be about 1123 BCM comprising 690 BCM of surface water and 433 BCM of replenishable ground water. The National Commission for Integrated Water Resources Development (NCIWRD) in its report (1999) assessed that total annual water requirement for irrigation, industrial, domestic and other sectors for the years 2025 and 2050 to be 843 BCM and 180 BCM respectively.

With a view to augment the water resources for utilization for various purposes, several measures are undertaken by the respective State Governments which, inter-alia, include conservation of water resources in reservoirs, traditional water bodies, rain water harvesting and artificial recharge of ground water. Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation supplements their efforts through technical and financial assistance under various schemes and programmes namely Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) and Repair, Renovation and Restoration (RRR) of Water Bodies etc. The Government of India has launched the National Water Mission with the objective of conservation of water, minimising wastage and ensuring its more equitable distribution both across and within States through integrated water resources development and management. The National Water Policy, 2012 has also been formulated, which has made several recommendations for development and improved management of water resources in the country.