

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

STARRED QUESTION NO:594
ANSWERED ON:07.05.2015
UTILISATION OF WATER RESOURCES
Khanduri AVSM Maj. Gen. (Retd) Bhuwan Chandra

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the State Governments of Himalayan region particularly Uttarakhand have not been able to optimally utilise the available water to meet the requirement of their respective areas;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor including the steps taken by the Government in this regard;
- (c) whether the Government has conducted any study to ascertain the reasons for the shrinking of Himalayan glaciers; and
- (d) if so, the details and the outcome thereof along with the steps taken to address the issue?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION (SUSHRI UMA BHARTI)

(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.594 TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 07.05.2015 REGARDING "UTILISATION OF WATER RESOURCES"

(a) & (b) Utilisation of available water depends on the demands of the ever increasing population for various purposes, which is planned by States as per availability, requirements, resources, priorities and geographic features of the state. As far as Uttarakhand is concerned, the State Government has reported that the State is utilizing the water required for general agri- cultural purposes. Regular efforts have been made by the irrigation department to provide irrigation facility to the farmers in the hilly regions. Generally, gravity and lift irrigation schemes are proposed in this region. But many times the schemes are not found viable on account of benefit cost ratio, high cost of the project due to the typical geographical terrain in the State as well as non-availability of sufficient funds.

The Govt. of India supplements the efforts of the hill States in completion of irrigation projects by providing Central Assistance to States under Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP).

(c) & (d) Yes madam. A few organizations like National Institute of Hydrology, Roorkee, and Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology, Dehradun, are engaged in carrying out studies of the Himalayan Glaciers.

Under the Himalayan Glaciological Programme sponsored by the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India, the parameters viz. mass balance, hydro-meteorology, glacier dynamics, glacier length/area changes are monitored and climate studies of the Himalayan glaciers are undertaken. The Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology, Dehradun is continuously monitoring the two glaciers, viz. Dokriani and Chorabari since 1992 and 2003, respectively in order to know their recession/advancement. The data collected showed that these glaciers are retreating / losing their mass continuously. These studies will help to assess and evaluate climate change, as well as its impact on global warming of Himalayas.

Further, studies have also been carried out by National institute of Hydrology which indicate that annual flows are likely to remain constant for next few decades, although flow regimes may change. Inter-annual variability in flows is likely increase and reliability of flows in the late summer period will decrease due to the lowering of the buffering effect of glacier melt.