

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2256  
ANSWERED ON:24.07.2014  
PER CAPITA AVAILABILITY OF DRINKING WATER  
Scindia Shri Jyotiraditya Madhavrao

**Will the Minister of DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION be pleased to state:**

- (a) the details of per capita availability of drinking water during each of the last three years and the current year, State/UT wise
- (b) whether per capita availability of drinking water has reduced during the past few years;
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the measures being taken to increase the availability and supply of drinking water?

**Answer**

MINISTER OF STATE FOR DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION (SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA )

(a ) The per capita availability of water in the country was 1816 cubic meters as per 2001 Census which has reduced to 1545 cubic meters as per 2011 Census. This shows that per capita availability of water in the country is decreasing due to increase in population. Per capita availability of drinking water in the country is not monitored by the Ministry .

(b ) and (c ) However, under National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) guidelines, the per capita norm for drinking water is 40 litres per capita per day (lpcd). The total additional coverage of habitations with 40 lpcd in the erstwhile Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme ((ARWSP) and NRDWP from 2004-05 onwards at Annexure I indicates that the per capita availability of drinking water in the last decade in the rural areas is increasing. .

(d) Drinking Water Supply is a State subject. However under National Rural Drinking Water Programme, this Ministry provides financial and technical assistance to States to supplement their efforts to provide adequate safe drinking water to rural population. To increase the availability of drinking water, the Ministry has suggested to adopt water conservation measures like roof top rainwater harvesting, erecting sustainability structures for water conservation etc. Moreover Hydro Geomorphological Maps (HGM) are being used for accurately locating new drinking water sources in the field. Government of India is taking steps to cover rural habitations and households with adequate safe drinking water supply on a continuous basis.