

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1039
ANSWERED ON:17.07.2014
SCARCITY OF WATER
Sule Smt. Supriya Sadanand

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken note of acute water shortage in the country in coming years;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with action taken thereon;
- (c) whether the Government has prepared any scheme on rain water harvesting in the country and proposes to have detailed discussions with the States to address the issue; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION;
PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND TEXTILES (INDEPENDENT CHARGE). (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR)

(a)&(b) The availability of water resources is limited but demand for water in the country is increasing due to increasing population, increasing industrialization and changing life style. As a result, water has become a relatively scarce resource in some areas of the country.

With a view to augmenting the water resources for irrigation, domestic, and industrial consumption, several measures are being 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. To facilitate this, the Central Government provides technical and financial assistance to the State Governments through various schemes and programmes such as Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) and Repair, Renovation and Restoration of Water Bodies etc.

To ensure adequate availability of funds for these Schemes, the Twelfth Five Year Plan Document has indicated an increased total outlay of about Rs.4,22,012 crore under the Water Resources Sector.

The National Water Policy (2012) also highlights the need for conservation, development and management of water resources in the country. Copies of the National Water Policy, 2012 have been forwarded to all State Governments/Union Territories and concerned Ministries/Departments of Central Government for appropriate action. Besides, the Central Ground Water Board has prepared a Master Plan for Artificial Recharge of Ground Water Aquifers in the Country. It has been shared with States and Union Territories for implementation.

(c)&(d) Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), under Ministry of Water Resources had undertaken the Demonstrative Rain Water Harvesting and Artificial Recharge Projects during XI Plan under the Scheme of "Ground Water Management & Regulation".

Consultations with representatives of State Governments are periodically held at various Conferences/Meetings including meetings of National Water Resources Council etc. to discuss the problems associated with the water sector and measures needed to resolve them. The Central Government has also constituted a National Forum of Water Resources/Irrigation Ministers of States for sharing of ideas, facilitating support to new and innovative ideas and evolving consensus for better water governance in the country.