

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3164
ANSWERED ON:31.07.2014
WATER SECURITY
Shinde Dr. Shrikant Eknath

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

- (a) whether India is likely to face an unprecedented water crisis in the near future;
- (b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and
- (c) the initiatives taken by the Government to develop and augment natural water sources and aquifers as part of its strategies to improve water security as part of national water security initiatives?

Answer

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

(a) to (c) The average annual water availability for the country has been assessed as 1869 billion cubic meters (BCM). Due to topographic, hydrological and other constraints, the utilizable water has been estimated to be about 1123 BCM, comprising of 690 BCM surface water and 433 BCM of replenishable ground water. The National Commission for Integrated Water Resources Development (NCIWRD), has assessed that the annual water requirement by the years 2025 and 2050 would be about 843 BCM and 1180 BCM respectively.

The availability of water resources is limited but demand for water in the country is increasing due to increasing population, 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.

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.