

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI,
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 915
ANSWERED ON 27.06.2019

FALLING WATER LEVELS

915. SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY

Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware that water levels in India's major reservoirs have fallen to 21 per cent of the average of the last decade and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether according to June 2018 NITI Aayog report, water demand will be twice the present supply and India could lose up to 6 per cent of its GDP and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government is implementing water harvesting schemes to make adequate water available; and
- (d) whether the Government has provided Central assistance for repair and maintenance of dams and embankments meant for water harvesting to various States and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI & SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

(SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA)

- (a) Central Water Commission monitors live storage status of 91 reservoirs of the country and issues weekly bulletin on every Thursday. As per latest bulletin dated 20.06.2019, live storage available in these reservoirs is 27.265 billion cubic meter (BCM), which is 93% of live storage of average of last ten years.
- (b) Yes, Sir. According to the report titled "Composite Water Management Index (CWMI)", published by NITI Aayog, by 2030 the country's water demand is projected to be twice the available supply and an eventual 6% loss in the country's GDP by 2050. As per the report of National Commission for Integrated Water Resources Development, water requirement by 2050 in high use scenario is estimated to be 1180 BCM, outstripping the total availability of 1137 BCM.
- (c) & (d) Water being a State subject, initiatives on water management & conservation including rain water harvesting is primarily States' responsibility. Central Government supports construction of water harvesting and conservation works primarily through Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) aided by Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana – Watershed Development Component (PMKSY-WDC) and Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana – Per Drop More Crop. Under these Schemes, during the last three years, 17,56,027 water harvesting and conservations works have been completed for which Rs.23,435.67 crore was released as Central share.

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Other measures taken by the Central Government to control water depletion and promote rain water harvesting / conservation are at the following URL:

http://mowr.gov.in/sites/default/files/Steps_to_control_water_depletion_Jun2019.pdf

Dam Rehabilitation and Improvement Project (DRIP), a World Bank, funded project was started in April 2012 with an objective to improve safety and operational performance of selected dams along with institutional strengthening with system wide management approach. This is a State Sector Scheme with Central Component. The project cost is Rs.3466 crore and scheduled to be completed in June 2020. The project has rehabilitation provision for 223 dams located in seven States namely Jharkhand, Karnataka, Kerala, Madya Pradesh, Orissa, Tamil Nadu and Uttarakhand. The Project has a back to back loan arrangement without any Central Assistance.
