

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES
RAJYA SABHA
QUESTION NO 18.11.2010
ANSWERED ON
WATER DEFICIT OF PER CENT BY .

139

SHRI MOINUL HASSAN

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :-

- (a) whether India is one of the countries to currently feel the heaviest impacts of the water shortage in terms of food and energy production as well as ecological damage;
- (b) whether Government is aware that India is estimated to have a water deficit of 50 per cent by 2030; and
- (c) if so, the measures which are sought to prevent this calamity?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND WATER RESOURCES

(SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL)

(a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF STARRED QUESTION No.139 TO BE ANSWERED IN RAJYA SABHA ON 18.11.2010 REGARDING WATER DEFICIT OF 50 PER CENT BY 2030

(a) to (c) Asian Development Bank (ADB) has drafted a "Water Operational Framework 2011-2020" which, inter alia, mentions that "ADB will be challenged by the water stress that dominates large parts of Asia. This stress, manifest most clearly in countries such as China, India, Pakistan, Viet Nam, Bangladesh, Nepal, Uzbekistan and Cambodia is currently impacting on the region's food and energy production, its ecological needs, and on the health and livelihood of its populations". The draft document further mentions that water shortages are expected to aggregate 40 per cent in developing Asia by 2030 and that in some countries, such as India, demand will exceed supply by 50 per cent. The projection about water deficit by ADB is based on the report titled "Charting Our Water Future: Economic Framework to Informed Decision Making" brought out by the 2030 Water Resources Group. It has been mentioned in the report that India faces an aggregate gap of 50% across all basins, driven by very rapid growth in agricultural and municipal and domestic demand. In the report, the aggregate 2030 demand and supply have been indicated to be 1498 billion cubic meters (BCM) and 744 BCM respectively. In this regard, it is stated that the total water requirement for India has been assessed by "Standing Sub-Committee for Assessment of Availability of Requirement of Water for Diverse Uses in the Country" constituted by the Government to be about 1447 BCM by the year 2050. However, the National Commission for Integrated Water Resources Development has assessed that with the desired level of efficiencies, the water requirement by the year 2050 could be brought down to about 1180 BCM in a high demand scenario. The overall water availability in India has been assessed to be about 1869 BCM with estimated utilizable water of about 1123 BCM. Considerable emphasis has been laid on the efficiency in water utilization for all purposes by the Government of India. National Water Policy states that efficiency of utilization in all diverse uses of water should be optimized. Several measures for improved management of water resources are undertaken by the respective State Governments which include restoration of water bodies, rainwater harvesting, artificial recharge of ground water and adoption of better management practices etc. Government of India is providing assistance to the State Governments through various schemes / programmes such as, Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme, Command Area Development and Water Management and Scheme for Repair, Renovation and Restoration of Water Bodies. Further "Increasing Water Use Efficiency by 20%" has been identified as one of the important goals in the Mission Document drafted for National Water Mission, one of the eight Missions envisaged under National Action Plan on Climate Change.