

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI,
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION
RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2477

ANSWERED ON 08.08.2022

WATER STRESSED CITIES

2477 SHRI N.R. ELANGO

Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware of the fact that nearly half of India's population, about 600 million people, is all set to face extreme water stress in coming years; and
- (b) if so, the corrective steps taken/proposed to be taken by Government keeping in view of the fact that 21 major cities, including Delhi, would run out of groundwater by 2030?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI BISHWESWAR TUDU)

(a) The average annual water availability of any region or country is largely dependent upon hydro-meteorological and geological factors and such water resources data is assessed basin-wise. The water availability per person is dependent on population of the country which is reducing due to increase in population. Also, due to high temporal and spatial variation of precipitation, some regions of the country may be facing water stress conditions. The average annual per capita water availability in the year 2011 has been assessed as 1545 cubic meters. Further, based on the study of “Reassessment of Water Availability in India using Space Inputs” (CWC, 2019), the average annual per capita water availability has been assessed as 1486 cubic meters and 1367 cubic meters for year 2021 and 2031 respectively. Annual per-capita water availability of less than 1700 cubic meters is considered as water stressed condition.

Further, ground water is a replenishable resource which gets recharged through rainfall and other sources periodically. In some places annual ground water withdrawal is more than the annual replenishable resource, which results in ‘overexploitation’ of ground water resource and its consequent depletion. However, over-exploitation is a reversible process and can be controlled through judicious and holistic management of water.

(b) Major cities of the country adopting proper water management measures will not run out of ground water by 2030, since ground water is a replenishable resource and gets recharged through rain from time to time. Hence, the replenishment will be always there due to occurrence of rainfall. Further, beneath replenishable (Dynamic) ground water resources, there exists In-storage (Static) ground water resources which have accumulated over time.

Water being a State subject, steps for augmentation, conservation and efficient management of water resources are primarily undertaken by the respective State Governments. In order to supplement the efforts of the State Governments, Central Government provides technical and financial assistance to them through various schemes and programmes.

The important steps taken by the Central Government for sustainable ground water management in the country are available at the URL: http://jalshakti-dowr.gov.in/sites/default/files/Steps%20taken%20by%20the%20Central%20Govt%20for%20water_depletion_july2022.pdf
