

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2644

ANSWERED ON 24.03.2025

A GLOBAL PROBLEM OF WATER STRESS GETTING WORST

2644. DR. SIKANDER KUMAR

Will the Minister of **JAL SHAKTI** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it has come to notice of the Government that there is fall in water levels in major reservoirs as reported by the Central Water Commission (CWC) from normal storage as compared to last year in the State of Himachal Pradesh;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government is aware that most districts in the State of Himachal Pradesh witnessed high rain deficiency and drought-like conditions leading to low water storage for irrigation or power generation projects and will affect drinking water availability; and
- (d) the steps taken by Government to mitigate these problems in the State?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI RAJ BHUSHAN CHOUDHARY)

(a) to (d) Central Water Commission monitors live storage status of 155 important reservoirs in the country and issues a weekly bulletin every Thursday. Out of 155 reservoirs monitored by CWC, 3 reservoirs are from the state of Himachal Pradesh having total live storage capacity of 12.475 Billion Cubic Meter (BCM). As per Reservoir Storage Bulletin dated 13.03.2025, the total live storage available in these reservoirs is 2.624 BCM. The storage during corresponding period of last year was 3.994 BCM and Normal storage (average of last 10 years) during corresponding period was 3.937 BCM.

Water storage situation in 3 major reservoirs of Himachal Pradesh on March 13, 2025 thus indicated a 33 per cent departure from normal. The less storage in reservoirs could result in a possible shortfall in hydel power generation and irrigation benefits.

With scanty rains and snow in the State, the Central Water Commission has issued an advisory to the State of Himachal Pradesh, urging the State Government to take measures for meeting the challenge of dealing with less storage water availability in the reservoirs.
