

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES,
RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 6267
ANSWERED ON 05.04.2018

WATER CRISIS

6267. SHRI R. GOPALAKRISHNAN

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Central Water Commission has warned of water crisis in some parts of the country in the coming months;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the action taken/to be taken by the Union Government in this regard?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION & PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) & (b) Central Water Commission (CWC) monitors live storage status of 91 important reservoirs of the country on weekly basis and issues weekly bulletin every Thursday. Whenever there are indications of comparatively lower storages in the reservoirs, CWC issues advisories to the State Governments. As per the live storage position of the 91 reservoirs towards the end of February, 2018, some reservoirs had storage less than 80% of the average of the last ten years whereas and few reservoirs had storage less than 50% of the average of the last ten years. Accordingly, CWC has issued advisories on 27.02.2018 to the concerned State Authorities to utilize the available water resources prudently and efficiently to tide over any possible water shortage in the coming days and to take appropriate action to avoid water distress.

(c) Water being a State subject, steps for augmentation, conservation and efficient management of water resources to ensure sustainability and availability 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 State Governments through various schemes and programmes. Central Government has taken various steps to tackle water crisis through various schemes like Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana, Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme, Repair, Renovation & Restoration of water bodies, implementation of new

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projects like Pancheshwar Dam, Polavaram Project, Interlinking of Rivers Project, Dam Rehabilitation & Improvement Project, etc. Additionally, non-structural measures have also been taken through the development and augmentation of National Hydrology Project, Flood Forecasting Stations, Hydrological Observation Stations, etc.

Central Government launched Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) in 2015-16 which aims to enhance physical access of water on farm and expand cultivable area under assured irrigation, improve on farm water use efficiency, introduce sustainable water conservation practices, etc., thus bringing much desired rural prosperity. It envisages end to end solution in irrigation supply chain viz. water resources, distribution, efficient application and extension services.

During 2016-17, 99 on-going Major/Medium irrigation projects under PMKSY-Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) having potential of 76.03 lakh ha. have been prioritized in consultation with States, for completion in phases up to December, 2019 along with their Command Area Development & Water Management (CADWM) works. The CADWM programme has been taken up with a view to enhance utilization of irrigation potential created, and improve agriculture production on a sustainable basis through Participatory Irrigation Management.

Central Government has formulated National Water Policy, 2012 which inter-alia recommends conservation, promotion and protection of water and highlights the need for augmenting the availability of water through rain water harvesting, direct use of rainfall and other management measures. The Policy has been sent to all States/ Union Territories and the concerned Central Ministries for appropriate action.

The Government of India has also formulated a National Perspective Plan for water resources development which envisages transfer of water from surplus basins to water deficit basins. The inter-basin transfer proposals envisage additional utilization of available water to bring additional area under irrigation.

Central Ground Water Board has prepared a conceptual document entitled "Master Plan for Artificial Recharge to Ground Water in India" during the year 2013 envisaging construction of 1.11 crore rainwater harvesting and artificial recharge structures in the country to harness 85 BCM (Billion Cubic Meters) of water. The augmented ground water resources will enhance the availability of water for drinking, domestic, industrial and irrigation purposes. The Master Plan has been circulated to all State Governments for implementation.