

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES,
RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION
LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *30
ANSWERED ON 19.07.2018**

WATER SCARCITY

*30. ADV. JOICE GEORGE

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

- (a) whether the Government is considering the water scarcity issue as the silent crisis of the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether any differences amongst the States have been observed on the issue and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has any concrete mechanism to address the issue; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION (SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI)

- (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (D) OF STARRED QUESTION NO *30 TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 19TH, JULY 2018 REGARDING “WATER SCARCITY” ASKED BY ADV. JOICE GEORGE.

(a) The total water availability of India received through precipitation is about 4000 Billion Cubic Meter (BCM) per annum. After evaporation, 1869 BCM water is available as natural runoff. Due to geological and other factors, the utilizable water availability is limited to 1137 BCM per annum comprising 690 BCM of surface water and 447 BCM of replenishable ground water.

Total requirement of the country for different uses for high demand scenario for the years 2010 and 2025 has been assessed as 710 BCM and 843 BCM respectively. Further, the country's total water demand has been estimated as 1180 BCM in the year 2050, outstripping the total availability of 1137 BCM.

The average annual water availability of any region or country is largely dependent upon hydro-meteorological and geological factors and is generally constant. However, water availability per person is dependent on population of the country and for India; water availability per capita is reducing progressively due to increase in population. The average annual per capita water availability in the years 2001 and 2011 was assessed as 1820 cubic meters and 1545 cubic meters respectively which may reduce further to 1340 and 1140 in the years 2025 and 2050 respectively. Annual per-capita water availability of less than 1700 cubic meters is considered as water stressed condition, whereas annual per-capita water availability below 1000 cubic meters is considered as a water scarcity condition. Due to high temporal and spatial variation of precipitation, the water availability of many region of the country is much below the national average and can be considered as water stressed / water scarce.

(b) to (d) Inter-State River Water Disputes among various States have been observed for sharing of water from inter-State rivers. The Government has enacted Inter-State River Water Disputes (ISRWD) Act, 1956 for adjudication of disputes relating to sharing of water of inter-State rivers and river valley thereof. When any request under the said Act is received from any State Government in respect of a water dispute on the inter-State rivers and the Central Government is of the opinion that the water dispute cannot be settled by negotiations, the Central Government constitutes a Water Dispute Tribunal for the adjudication of the water dispute.
