

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES,
RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2643
ANSWERED ON 02.08.2018

PER-CAPITA AVAILABILITY OF WATER

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

- (a) the existing per-capita availability of water in the country;
- (b) whether the per-capita availability of water is reducing in the country and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government has conducted any survey in each district of the country in this regard and if so, the details and outcome thereof;
- (d) the steps taken to identify the new sources of water in each State along with the outcome of the same; and
- (e) the steps taken/to be taken by the Government to improve the availability of water in the country?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) & (b) 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; per capita water availability in the country 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.

(c) to (e) Central Government has not conducted any survey regarding per capita availability of water district-wise.

Water being a State subject, steps for augmentation, conservation and efficient management of water resources including identification of new sources of water 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. Central Government has taken various steps to improve availability of water in the country.

Central Government has launched Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai 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. During 2016-17, 99 on-going Major/Medium irrigation projects under PMKSY-

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Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) having potential of 76.03 lakh hectares were prioritized in consultation with States, for completion in phases up to December, 2019 along with their Command Area Development & Water Management (CADWM) works.

The Government of India has formulated a National Perspective Plan (NPP) for Water Resources Development which envisages transfer of water from surplus basins to water deficit basins to improve availability of water.

Central Government has launched the National Water Mission with the objective of conservation of water, minimizing wastage and ensuring its more equitable distribution both across and within States through integrated water resources development and management.

Some other initiatives/measures taken by the Central Government for conservation and improvement of availability of ground water are as under:

- Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) has prepared a conceptual document titled “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 Billion Cubic Meters (BCM) of water. The augmented ground water resources will enhance the availability of water for various purposes. The Master Plan has been circulated to all State Governments for implementation.
- CGWB has taken up Aquifer Mapping and Management programme (NAQUIM) under the scheme of Ground Water Management and Regulation. The Aquifer Mapping is aimed to delineate aquifer disposition and their characterization for preparation of aquifer/area specific ground water management plans, with community participation.
- Government has proposed ‘Atal Bhujal Yojana (ABHY)’ with the aim to improve ground water management in select over-exploited and ground water stressed areas in identified priority States (Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh) through implementation of various interventions to ensure long-term sustainability of ground water resources with community participation.
- This Ministry has circulated a Model Bill to all the States/UTs to enable them to enact suitable ground water legislation for its regulation and development which includes provision of rain water harvesting. So far, 15 States/UTs have adopted and implemented the ground water legislation on the lines of Model Bill.
- Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA), constituted under “The Environment (Protection) Act, 1986” for the purpose of regulation and control of ground water development and management in the country, has so far notified 162 areas in the country for the purpose of regulation of ground water.