

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES,  
RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION  
**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 322**  
ANSWERED ON 19.07.2018

**WATER SHORTAGE**

322. SHRI MALYADRI SRIRAM

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that water shortage is likely to be a major issue in the future and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) water levels in major reservoirs are down to 24% and are at a crisis-like situation and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government is developing an integrated national-level water information system aimed at improving quality and accessibility of water resources to tackle the depleting ground water levels; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

**ANSWER**

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) Water available 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 regions of the country is much below the national average and can be considered as water stressed / water scarce. Total requirement of the country for different uses for high demand scenario for the years 2010 and 2025 has been assessed as 710 Billion Cubic Meter (BCM) and 843 BCM respectively. Further, it is projected that in the year 2050, the country's total water demand is estimated at 1180 BCM, outstripping the total availability of 1137 BCM.

(b) Central Water Commission (CWC) under this Ministry is monitoring live storage status of 91 reservoirs of the country on weekly basis and is issuing weekly bulletin on every Thursday. The bulletins are available on CWC website. The latest bulletin was issued on 12.07.2018. The live storage available as on 12.07.2018 in the above reservoirs is 38.157 BCM which is 24% of the total live storage capacity of these reservoirs at Full Reservoir Level. The live storage available in these reservoirs for the corresponding period of last year was 35.811 BCM and the average of last 10 years live storage was 38.504 BCM. Thus, the live storage available in 91 reservoirs as per 12.07.2018 Bulletin is 107% of the live storage of corresponding period of last year and 99% of storage of average of last ten years. The reservoir storage/levels varies season wise depending on usage, rainfall etc.

(c) & (d) CWC has already established National Level Water Information System (India-WRIS). This system has now been upgraded and up-scaled under National Hydrologic Project, a central sector scheme approved by the Cabinet in April, 2016. The up-scaled system will act as a single window system for water resources related data with the objective of its standardization, validation, analysis and effective dissemination for development of scientific tools for better management of water resources.

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