

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES,
RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 352
ANSWERED ON 19.07.2018

COMPOSITE WATER MANAGEMENT INDEX FOR GROUND WATER CONSERVATION

352. SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR

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

- (a) whether the Government is aware that the country is facing its worst water crisis in history and the demand for water would far outstrip its supply by 2030 and even by 2020 and 21 Indian cities will run out of ground water in case no action is taken to address the issue and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the annual per capital availability of water fell from 1820 cubic meters in 2001 to 1545 cubic meters in 2011 with a likely further fall to 1341 cubic meters in 2025 resulting in a water stressed like situation and if so, the facts thereof;
- (c) whether the ground water usage escalated from 58 percent to 62 percent between 2004 and 2011 and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government plans to build a Composite Water Management Index (CWMI) to benchmark State-level performances based on water indicators against a clear baseline and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) the proactive steps taken to stem the problem before it becomes unmanageable?

ANSWER

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

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

(a) NITI Aayog, in its report titled “Composite Water Management Index” (June 2018) has mentioned about reports by McKinsey and Water Resources Group which states that India’s water demand will exceed supply by a factor of two by the year 2030. The report also states that 21 cities of India are expected to run out of groundwater by 2020. This is based only on the estimates of annual groundwater replenishment and its extraction. It does not take into account the ground water availability in the deeper aquifers.

(b) The average annual water availability of any region or country is largely dependent upon hydro-meteorological and geological factors and is generally constant. As per National Commission on Integrated Water Resources Development (NCIWRD) report, 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.

The average annual per capita water availability in the country as a whole is reducing progressively due to increase in population. The average annual per capita availability of water in years 2001 and 2011 was assessed as 1820 cubic meters and 1545 cubic meters, respectively which may reduce further to 1340 in the year 2025.

According to National Commission on Integrated Water Resources Development (NCIWRD-1999) constituted by Ministry of Water Resources, the total water requirement of the country for different uses for high demand scenario for the years 2025 and 2050 shall be 843 Billion Cubic Meters (BCM) and 1180 BCM respectively.

(c) As per the assessment of dynamic ground water resources of the country jointly by Central Ground Water Board and concerned State Governments, the stage of ground water development, which is the ratio of ground water use to net annual ground water availability, has increased from 58% in 2004 to 62% in 2011.

(d) The National Institute for Transforming India (NITI) Aayog has developed the Composite Water Management Index (CWMI) to enable effective water management in Indian states. The Index and this associated report are expected to: (1) establish a clear baseline and benchmark for state-level performance on key water indicators; (2) uncover and explain how states have progressed on water issues over time, including identifying high-performers and under-performers, thereby inculcating a culture of constructive competition among states; and, (3) identify areas for deeper engagement and investment on the part of the states.

(e) Water being a State subject, initiatives on water management including conservation and artificial recharge to ground water is primarily States' responsibility. However, steps taken by the Central Government for conservation of ground water are available at the following URL http://mowr.gov.in/sites/default/files/MeasuresForGW-Depletion_1.pdf.
