

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES,
RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. †1711
ANSWERED ON 20.12.2018

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) whether per capita availability of water is decreasing in the country and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether any survey has been conducted by the Government in this regard in each district of the country;
- (c) if so, the details and the outcome thereof;
- (d) the steps taken by the Government to identify new water resources in each State of the country along with the outcome of the same; and
- (e) the other steps taken/proposed 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) 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 availability of water is reducing progressively due to increase in population. The average annual per capita water availability in the years 2001 and 2011 was assessed as 1816 cubic meters and 1545 cubic meters respectively which may reduce further to 1340 and 1140 in the years 2025 and 2050 respectively.

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

(d) & (e) 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 formulated a National Perspective Plan (NPP) for Water Resources Development which envisages transfer of water from water surplus basins to water deficit basins to improve availability of water.

Central Government has launched Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayi Yojana (PMKSY) in 2015-16 which aims to enhance physical access of water on farm and expand cultivable area under assured irrigation, improve farm water use efficiency, introduce sustainable water conservation practices, etc. During 2016-17, 99 on-going Major/Medium irrigation projects under PMKSY-Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) having ultimate irrigation potential of 76.03 lakh hectares and balance estimated cost of Rs.77,595 crore (Central Assistance Rs.31342.50 crore) 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. Funding mechanism through NABARD has been approved by the Government for both Central and State share.

Central Government has formulated National Water Policy (NWP), 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 NWP, 2012 has been sent to all States/ Union Territories and the concerned Central Ministries for appropriate action.

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 urban and rural areas. The Master Plan has been circulated to all State Governments for implementation.
- CGWB has taken up Aquifer Mapping and Management (NAQUIM) programme from the XII Plan, under the scheme of Ground Water Management and Regulation. Aquifer Mapping is aimed at delineating aquifer disposition and their characterization for preparation of aquifer/area specific ground water management plans.
- The Ministry has circulated a Model Bill to all the States/UTs to enable them to enact suitable ground water legislation for regulation of its 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) has been constituted under Section 3 (3) of the “Environment (Protection) Act, 1986” for the purpose of regulation and control of ground water development and management in the Country. So far, CGWA has notified 162 areas in the country where ground water withdrawal through new abstraction structures is not permitted, except for drinking and domestic uses.