

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI,
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION
LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *246
ANSWERED ON 05.12.2019

SHORTAGE OF WATER

*246. SHRI MARGANI BHARAT
 SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR BELLANA

Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that there is an acute shortage of water in most parts of the country;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the country is also facing the problem of water management and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the corrective steps being taken in this regard?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

- (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 *246 TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 05.12.2019 REGARDING “SHORTAGE OF WATER”.

(a) & (b) The average annual water availability of any region or country is largely dependent upon hydro-meteorological and geological factors. However, water availability per person is dependent on population of the country and for India, per capita water availability in the country is reducing due to increase in population. The average annual per capita water availability in the year 2011 has been assessed as 1545 cubic meters which may further reduce to 1486 cubic meters, 1367 cubic meters, 1282 cubic meters and 1228 cubic meters in the years 2021, 2031, 2041 and 2051 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 in many regions of the country is below the national average and may be facing water stress / scarce conditions.

(c) & (d) The country is facing a number of challenges in water management such as huge temporal and spatial variability in respect of availability of water resources, declining per-capita water resources availability due to rapid increase in population, inadequate surface water storage for meeting future water demands, over-exploitation of ground water resources, droughts, low water use efficiency, etc.

Water being a State subject, measures for management of water resources is primarily taken by respective State Governments. Central Government supplements the efforts of the State Governments by providing technical and financial assistance through various schemes and programmes. Central Government has taken various steps for management of water.

Ministry of Jal Shakti has been created by the Government of India, integrating the erstwhile Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation and the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation, with an aim to deal with the issues relating to water in a holistic and integrated manner.

Ministry of Jal Shakti has launched Jal Shakti Abhiyan (JSA), a campaign for water conservation and water security, in 256 water-stressed districts of 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 through inter-linking of rivers.

Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) is being implemented with an aim 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. Under PMKSY-Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) component, 99 on-going Major/Medium irrigation projects having ultimate irrigation potential of 76.03 lakh hectares 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.

Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs is implementing Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) in 500 cities with mission components such as water supply, storm water drainage, etc. The water supply component includes augmentation of existing water supply system and water treatment plants; rehabilitation of old water supply system; rejuvenation of water bodies, etc.

The Government of India has launched Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), which aims at providing functional household tap connections to every rural household by 2024 at the service level of 55 litre per capita per day. This Mission will focus on integrated demand and supply side management of water at the local level, including creation of local infrastructure for source sustainability like rainwater harvesting, groundwater recharge and management of household wastewater for reuse in agriculture.

Central Ground Water Board is implementing a nationwide programme of “National Aquifer Mapping and Management (NAQUIM)” for mapping of aquifers (Water bearing formations), their characterization and development of aquifer management plans to facilitate sustainable development of ground water resources. Aquifer maps and management plans have been shared with the respective State Government agencies.

Some initiatives/measures taken by Central Government to control water depletion and promote rain water harvesting / conservation are available at the URL:

http://mowr.gov.in/sites/default/files/Steps_to_control_water_depletion_Jun2019.pdf