

MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES

RAJYA SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO 269 TO BE ANSWERED ON 10.02.2014

Shortage of water

269. SHRI N.K. SINGH

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:-

- (a) whether in view of the prediction of acute water shortage in the country by 2050, Government has since worked out any strategy to deal with inefficient water consumption pattern and if so, the details thereof; and
(b) whether Government proposes to have detailed discussions with the State Governments and to find out a mechanism to deal with the impending water crisis and if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE AND WATER RESOURCES (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD)

(a) to (b) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (b) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. *269 TO BE ANSWERED IN RAJYA SABHA ON 10.2.2014 REGARDING SHORTAGE OF WATER.

(a) & (b) The average annual water availability for the country has been assessed as 1869 billion cubic meters (BCM). Due to topographic, hydrological and other constraints, the utilizable water has been estimated to be about 1121 BCM, comprising of 690 BCM surface water and 431 BCM of replenishable ground water. The National Commission for Integrated Water Resources Development (NCIWRD), in its report in 1999, assessed that the annual water requirement by the year 2025 and 2050 will be about 843 BCM and 1180 BCM respectively.

Several steps for augmentation, conservation and efficient management to ensure sustainability of water resources are undertaken by the respective State Governments. In order to supplement the efforts of the State Governments, Government of India provides technical and financial assistance to State Governments through various schemes and programmes.

Government of India 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'. One of the Goals of National Water Mission is 'increasing water use efficiency by 20%' Further, Government of India has formulated the National Water Policy, 2012 wherein several recommendations have been made for conservation, development and management of water resources in the country. Copies of the National Water Policy, 2012 have been forwarded to all State Government/UTs and concerned Ministries/Departments of Central Government for appropriate action.

(b) Consultations with representatives of State Governments are periodically held at various Conferences/Meetings including meetings of National Water Resources Council and National Water Board, etc. to discuss the problems associated with the water sector and measures needed to resolve them. The Central Government has also constituted a National Forum of Water Resources/Irrigation Ministers of States for sharing of ideas, facilitating support to new and innovative ideas and evolving consensus for better water governance in the country.