

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2915
ANSWERED ON:11.08.2003
FLOW OF RIVERS WATER INTO SEA
BRAHMANAND MANDAL

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) the quantum of rivers water which flows down to sea every year in the country; and
- (b) the scheme formulated by the Government to utilise the water being wasted thereby?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY)

a) & (b) The average annual precipitation including snowfall is 4000 Billion Cubic Metre (BCM) in the country. Out of this, the average annual water availability in the river-systems of the country is assessed at 1869 BCM. The utilizable surface water is assessed as 690 BCM and the annual replenishable ground water resource is about 432 BCM. Presently 605 BCM of water out of 1869 BCM is being used for diverse purposes. Rest of the water could be considered to be flowing down to sea.

In order to make optimum utilization of rivers' water in the country and for their efficient use, live storage capacity of 177 BCM has already been created. Another 75 BCM of live storage will be created on completion of projects which are under various stages of construction. Besides, live storage capacity of 132 BCM is to be created through the proposals under consideration. For speedy completion of ongoing schemes, Government of India has launched Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP). Government of India is also promoting rainwater harvesting through Watershed Management Programme, artificial recharge of ground water and roof-top rainwater harvesting under the sector reform project of Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme of the Ministry of Rural Development, for which technical and financial assistance is provided to the State Governments and other implementing agencies. Central Ground Water Board has also taken up a Central Sector Scheme on "Studies of Recharge to Ground Water" on pilot basis. For meeting future requirements of water, as a long term measure, National Water Development Agency have formulated National Perspective Plan for water resources development which envisages interlinking various Peninsular rivers and Himalayan rivers.