

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2016
ANSWERED ON:15.12.2003
TAPPING OF WATER POTENTIAL
RAMSHETH THAKUR

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) has emphasised the need to accelerate efforts to tap the untapped water potential especially rain and ground water;
- (b) if so, whether the Government has formulated any plan to tap the untapped water potential; and
- (c) if so, the progress achieved so far in this regard?

Answer

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

(a) Yes, Sir. Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) have emphasised the need to accelerate efforts to tap the untapped water potential.

(b) & (c) Water being a State subject schemes for tapping the untapped water resources are formulated, planned and executed by the respective State Governments. Live storage capacity of 177 billion cubic metre (BCM) has been created. Another 75 BCM of live storage will be created on completion of projects which are under various stages of construction. Besides, further 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 during the Ninth Plan. 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 with a view to feed deficit basins from surplus basins.