

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
WATER RESOURCES  
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:441  
ANSWERED ON:15.05.2006  
WATER SCARCITY  
Adhalrao Patil Shri Shivaji

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

- (a) whether United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization has warned developing countries including India against the threat of water scarcity in the coming years;
- (b) if so, the facts about the present water availability and requirement in the coming years; and
- (c) the specific plans being chalked out by the Government in this direction to remedy the situation?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ)

(a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) to (c) OF STARRED QUESTION No.441 TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 15.05.2006 REGARDING WATER SCARCITY

(a) United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) have not issued specific warning to India against the threat of water scarcity in the coming years. However, FAO has indicated the issue of increasing demand for water for various purposes and related water scarcity issues from time to time through its publications etc.

(b) & (c) The average annual water availability in the country has been assessed as 1869 billion cubic metre (BCM). It is estimated that owing to topographic, hydrological and other constraints, the utilizable water is 1123 BCM only.

The National Commission for Integrated Water Resources Development Plan in its report has projected the estimates of total annual water requirements for various scenarios. The estimated water requirements for the year 2010, 2025 and 2050 are 710 BCM, 843 BCM and 1180 BCM respectively.

With a view to optimally utilize the available resources, several measures for development and management of water resources are undertaken by the respective State Governments which include creation of storages, restoration of water bodies, rain water harvesting, artificial recharge to ground water and adoption of better management practices etc. State Governments conceive plan and implement major, medium and minor schemes, both surface and ground water for utilization of water resources. Storage capacity of about 213 BCM has been created so far. As per present assessment, the total estimated storage capacity of the various projects under construction is about 76 BCM. Further, the State Governments have identified various other schemes for investigation and planning and the estimated storage for such schemes is about 108 BCM. Government of India is providing central assistance to the State Governments through various schemes/programmes, such as Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP); Command Area Development and Water Management (CADWM) Programme; National Project for Repair, Renovation and Restoration of Water Bodies directly linked to Agriculture etc. The Government of India also encourages rainwater harvesting and recharge to groundwater for conservation of water.