

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4696
ANSWERED ON:22.05.2006
LEGISLATION ON WASTAGE OF WATER
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Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether farming sector accounts for 70 percent of the water consumed;
- (b) if so, whether due to mismanagement majority of water consumed in farming sector goes waste;
- (c) whether the irrigation system urgently need attention to minimize waste; and
- (d) if so, the effective steps taken by the Union Government to enact legislation to minimize wastage of water?

Answer

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

(a) It has been estimated that the present utilization of water for various purposes is about 629 billion cubic metre (BCM) out of which about 83% is for irrigation purposes. The National Commission for Integrated Water Resources Development Plan (NCIWRDP) has projected the estimate of annual water requirement. The estimated projection for total water utilization in year 2050 is about 1180 BCM, of which about 68% is for irrigation purpose.

(b) to (d) The NCIWRDP has also assessed the present level of the efficiency of utilization as 35 to 40% for surface water and about 65 to 70% in respect of ground water schemes. The need for improving the efficiency and optimal utilization of water resources has been duly emphasized in the National Water Policy, 2002 which states that efficiency of utilisation in all the diverse uses of water should be optimised and an awareness of water as a scarce resource should be fostered. The National Water Policy, 2002 further emphasizes on conservation of the resources and minimising losses and for this, measures like selective linings in the conveyance system, modernization and rehabilitation of existing systems including tanks, recycling and re-use of treated effluents and adoption of traditional techniques like mulching or pitcher irrigation and new techniques like drip and sprinkler may be promoted, wherever feasible.