

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4381
ANSWERED ON:03.05.2012
WATER USE IN DESERT STATES
Shetkar Shri Suresh Kumar

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is focusing on better water use in desert States; and
- (b) if so, the steps taken in this direction State-wise, in the XIth Five Year Plan?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES & MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI VINCENT H. PALA)

(a) With regard to desert states / drought prone areas, the National Water Policy, 2002 stipulates that drought-prone areas should be made less vulnerable to drought-associated problems through soil moisture conservation measures, water harvesting practices, minimization of evaporation losses, development of the ground water potential including recharging and the transfer of surface water from surplus areas where feasible and appropriate. Pastures, forestry or other modes of development which are relatively less water demanding should be encouraged. In planning water resource development projects, the needs of drought-prone areas should be given priority.

(b) The Central Government does not maintain information in this regard.