

Water crisis

142. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the country may face severe water crisis during the Twelfth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, whether Government is considering to map aquifers in order to determine how much water is actually available; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) The average annual water availability for the country as a whole has been assessed as 1,869 billion cubic metres (BCM) which is likely to continue in the Twelfth Five Year Plan. On the basis of the population indicated in 2011 census, which is likely to marginally increase in Twelfth Five Year Plan period, the per capita water availability works out to be about 1,545 cubic metre per year making India a water stressed country. According to Falkenmark Water Stress Indicator, water availability below 1,700 m³ per capita, per year indicate water stress condition.

(b) and (c) The Government of India has initiated actions for some field studies on micro level aquifer mapping.

Funds for installing India Mark-2 Hand Pump in Himachal Pradesh

143. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the problem of pollution of ground water which is being used as drinking water in most parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the measures being taken by Government to provide safe drinking water in the country; and

(c) whether Government has received requests regarding fund allocation for installing India Mark-2 handpump in various areas of the country particularly in Himachal Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) Chemical quality of ground water on regional scale throughout the country is being