

(b) The average annual per capita water availability in the country as per the 2011 census is 1545 cubic meters. State-wise per capita water availability is not available since State wise surface water availability has not been assessed.

(c) Analysis of long term water level data collected by Central Ground Water Board during pre-monsoon period during the last decade (May, 2002 – May, 2011) has indicated that 44% of the observation wells monitored throughout the country have registered decline in ground water levels and the remaining 56% of the wells have registered rise.

(d) The National Water Policy, 2002 stresses that exploitation of ground water resources should be so regulated as not to exceed the recharging possibilities, as also to ensure social equity. The detrimental environmental consequences of over-exploitation of ground water need to be effectively prevented by the Central and State Governments. Ground water recharge projects should be developed and implemented for improving both the quality and availability of ground water resource. Over exploitation of ground water should be avoided especially near the coast to prevent ingress of seawater into sweet water aquifers.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. The Government has implemented the scheme on "Artificial recharge to ground water through dug wells" with the objective to recharge rain runoff generated in agricultural fields through existing dugwells in areas predominantly underlain by hard rock terrain where rapid decline in ground water levels and water quality changes were observed.

Setting up Water Regulatory Authority

3405. SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA :

DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government has been actively considering the setting up of a Water Regulatory Authority in each State and a permanent Water Dispute Tribunal at the Centre;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether setting up of Water Regulatory Authority in each State and Water Dispute Tribunal would solve water problems in the long run; and

(d) if so, Government's response in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA) : (a) and (b) The Thirteenth Finance Commission has, *inter-alia*, recommended setting up of a Water Regulatory Authority in each State to fix and regulate the water tariff system and charges for surface and sub-surface water used for domestic, agriculture, industrial and other purposes.

The proposal to set up Permanent Water Dispute Tribunal is at conceptual stage.

(c) and (d) While recommending the setting up of a Water Regulatory Authority in each State, the Thirteenth Finance Commission observed that 'injudicious inter-sectoral and intra-sectoral distribution of water amongst various categories of water users, low water use efficiency, fragmented approach to water resources planning and development, low water user charges and meagre recovery are some of the major problems associated with the management of water resources in the country. A statutory autonomous institution at the state level could help in addressing these issues'. Government of India has accepted the recommendations.

Agreement with Nepal for floods control of Kosi river

3406. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA :

SHRI SANJAY RAUT :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

- (a) whether it is a fact that India and Nepal are working together to control floods due to overflow of Kosi river;
- (b) if so, the details of the agreement in this regard; and
- (c) what is the time-frame agreed between the two countries for controlling floods?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA) : (a) and (b) Government of India maintains the flood protection works of Kosi Barrage in Nepal through the State Government of Bihar. During the 1st meeting of India-Nepal Joint Ministerial Commission on Water Resources (JMCWR), JMCWR recommended that the maintenance of 15 Km length of eastern Kosi embankment presently being maintained by the Government of Nepal, may also be taken up by the Government of India. In addition, Sapta Kosi High Dam Multipurpose Project on river Kosi in Nepal, is planned, which on implementation will also mitigate floods due to Kosi river.

(c) Detailed Project Report (DPR) of Sapta Kosi High Dam Multipurpose Project is scheduled to be completed by February, 2013.

Utilisation of water

†3407. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI :

SHRI RAMCHANDRA PRASAD SINGH :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

- (a) whether it is a fact that one of the reasons for water scarcity in the country is the improper utilisation of water in the country;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.