Rationing of water

†3714. SHRI RAGHUNANDAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether, keeping in view the present scenario of availability of water in the country, the Planning Commission has submitted a proposal for implementation of the rationing system for water;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether, despite the availability of natural water in sufficient quantity, there is scarcity of water for domestic use; and

(d) if so, the steps proposed by the Central Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) No, Sir. Planning Commission has informed that they have not submitted any proposal for implementing the rationing system for water.

(b) Does not arise in view of reply part (a) above.

(c) and (d) The average annual water availability in the country has been assessed as 1869 Billion Cubic Meters (BCM). However, the utilizable water resources, considering topographic, hydrological and other constraints, has been estimated to be about 1121 BCM comprising 690 BCM of surface water and 431 BCM of replenishable ground water. The National Commission for Integrated Water Resources Development (NCIWRD) had, in its Report (1999), assessed the water requirements for domestic uses for the years 2025 and 2050 as 62 BCM and 111 BCM respectively. Hence, the availability of water for domestic use is sufficient to meet the demand.

Several steps for augmentation, conservation and efficient management to ensure sustainability of water resources are undertaken by the respective State Governments. In order to supplement the efforts of the State Governments, Government of India provides technical and financial assistance to State Governments to encourage sustainable development and efficient management of water resources through various schemes and programmes. State Governments allocate water for different uses depending on their priorities and requirements.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

The Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation administers through the States the centrally sponsored scheme, National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) for providing financial and technical assistance to the States to supplement their efforts to provide drinking water to the rural areas. The State Governments are vested with powers to plan, execute and implement drinking water supply schemes under NRDWP.

Ministry of Urban Development is supplementing the efforts of State Governments/Urban Local Bodies in providing water supply in Urban areas/ Metropolitan cities under the schemes/programmes such as Jawahar Lal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission, North Eastern Region Urban Development Programme, Non-Lapsable Central Pool of Resources and Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme in Satellite Towns.

Research and development for management of water resources

†3715. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a)   whether Government has started any scheme/programme for research and development for management of water resources throughout the country;

(b)   if so, the details threreof and the funds allocated and spent therefor during the last three years; and

(c)   the details of targets set and achieved during that period, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) Yes Sir, Ministry of Water Resources, Government of India is implementing a Plan Scheme namely 'Research and Development Programme in water Sector' with objective to find solutions to the country's water resources related problem; to improve available technology and engineering methods and procedures and to maintain a lead in the latest technology etc.

(b)   Under the Plan Scheme 'Research and Development Programme in Water Sector':

(i)   Ministry of Water Resources provides fund for taking up the research work on specific and identified regional problems in water sector through its apex organizations namely Central Water and

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