

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO 2855

TO BE ANSWERED ON 19.08.2010

DEPLETION OF ANNUAL RENEWABLE WATER .

2855. SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state: -

- (a) whether the Ministry is aware of the fact that in the next 20 years the country will face a huge depletion of annual renewable water;
- (b) if so, the details of action taken in this regard;
- (c) whether Government has any proposal for global forum of water similar to forums like deliberate on oil prices and availability to resolve water dispute and its availability;
- (d) whether Government has any proposal for Himalayan River Commission or any other such organization to overcome looming water problem for all the Himalayan rivers; and
- (e) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES

(SHRI VINCENT H. PALA)

- (a) The report titled “The Himalayan Challenge – Water Security in Emerging Asia” brought out by Strategic Foresight Group has mentioned about the studies which indicate that the glaciers will be seriously affected by global warming and that the glacial melting will eventually reduce river flow in low season. The report further states that in the next 20 years, the four countries in the Himalayan sub-region i.e., China, India, Bangladesh and Nepal will face depletion of almost 275 billion cubic meters (BCM) of annual renewable water. However, in the report titled “Himalayan Glacier – A State-of-Art Review of Glacial Studies, Glacier Retreat and Climate Change” published by Ministry of Environment & Forests and G.B. Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment and Development, it has been concluded that it is premature to make a statement that glaciers in the Himalayas are retreating abnormally because of the global warming.
- (b) With a view to address the various issues related to impact of climate change, Government of India has launched the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC). NAPCC envisages institutionalization of eight national missions which inter alia includes “National Water Mission”. One of the five identified goals in the draft Mission Document of National Water Mission is “comprehensive water data base in public domain and assessment of the impact of climate change on water resources”. Ministry of Water Resources has constituted a “Standing Committee for Assessment of Impact of Climate Change on Water Resources” under the chairmanship of Chairman, Central Water Commission (CWC) and studies related to impact of climate change on water resources have been jointly taken up by National Institute of Hydrology, CWC, Central Ground Water Board and Brahmaputra Board with active participation of reputed academic institutions.
- (c) & (d) No, Sir.
- (e) Government of India has been successfully addressing the issues related to rivers common to India and neighbouring countries through bilateral co-operation.