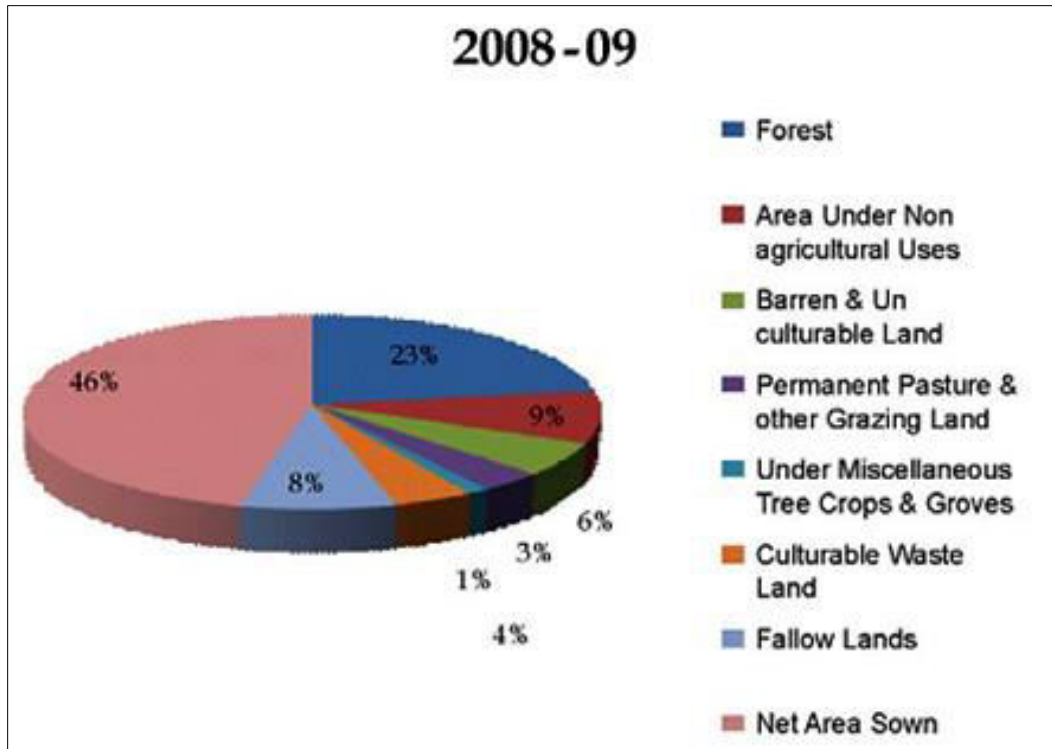


Index

CHAPTERS	PAGE NOS.
1. LOCATION AND SPACE RELATIONS.....	1
2. DRAINAGE SYSTEM AND WATER	6
3. LAND AND WATER RESOURCES	21
4. SOIL	33
5. NATURAL VEGETATION.....	40
6. NATURAL HAZARDS AND DISASTERS	53
7. AGRICULTURE AND ALLIED ACTIVITIES	71
8. ENERGY RESOURCES.....	115
9. MINERALS AND INDUSTRIES	131
10. TRANSPORT & COMMUNICATION NETWORK.....	144
11. URBANISATION.....	163
12. POPULATION	177
13. Demographic Change, Age Structure Transition and Ageing in India.....	185
14. INDIAN CLIMATE	205
15. PHYSIOGRAPHY OF INDIA.....	224



At present, India has more than half of the total area under cultivation (net sown area + fallow land = 54%). India stands seventh in the world in terms of geographical area, but second in terms of cultivated land after USA. Forests cover one fifth of the total area of India. About 5.8% of land surface is barren and physically uncultivable. Permanent pastures are around 3.63% while around 5% area is classified as culturable waste which can be brought under cultivation with efforts. Finally around 14% of total land is used for non-agricultural purposes such as housing, industries, roads, railway, etc.

ISSUES REGARDING LAND RESOURCE

Under the stress of increasing population and its economic requirements of land, following issues emerge for land resource management:

1. Land reforms for agriculture
2. Decreasing availability of fertile land for agriculture
3. Land records modernization
4. Land acquisition for urbanization and industrialization and associated issues
5. Management of sustainable urbanization on the available land e.g. Solid-liquid waste management.
6. Land Degradation

WATER RESOURCE

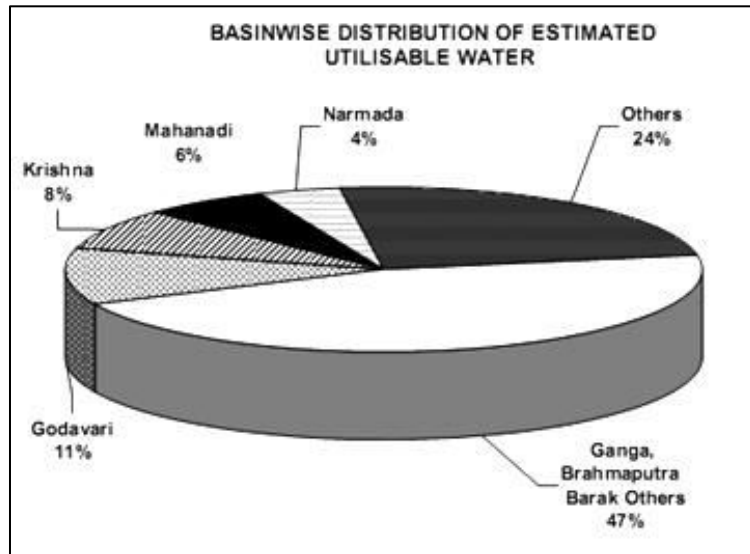
The water resource development is a must for economic prosperity and for enhancing the quality of life of the people. India is among the foremost countries in the world in exploiting its river water resources for conservation of water for irrigation, flood control, generation of hydro power and water supply, industrial and various other miscellaneous uses. A large number of projects, dams, barrages, hydro power structures, canal network etc. have come all over the country in successive five year plans.

RAINFALL

The rainfall in the country is mostly confined to four monsoon months between June to September during which almost 80% of the total rainfall takes place. The average annual precipitation over the India is estimated at 4000 BCM of which a part goes towards increasing ground water storage, a part is lost as evapo-transpiration and the remaining appears as surface water. The water resources potential of the country which occurs as natural run off in the rivers is estimated to be about 1869 BCM, considering both surface and ground water as one system. Due to various constraints of topography, uneven distribution of resource over space and time, and geographic only about 1122 BCM of the total potential can be put to beneficial use, 690 BCM through surface water resources and 432 BCM by ground water.

RIVER BASIN WATER

We have a total of 12 Major River Basins (catchment area more than 20,000 sq.kms each) with total catchment area of 252.8 mha and 46 Medium River Basins (catchment area between 2,000 and 20,000 sq.kms each) with total catchment area of 24.6



mha and 8 minor river basins with catchment area of less than 2000 sq.km and 6 desert river which flow for some distance and are lost in desert. The Ganga–Brahmaputra-Meghna basin has the largest catchment area of about 110 mha accounting for approximately 43% of the catchment area of all major rivers in the country followed by Indus(32.1 mha), Godavari(31.3 mha), Krishna(25.9 mha) and Mahanadi(14.2 mha). The Ganga-Brahmaputra-Meghna system is also the major contributor to total water resources accounting for approximately 60% of the total water resource potential and