

AS INTRODUCED IN THE RAJYA SABHA
ON THE 7TH FEBRUARY, 2025

Bill No. XC of 2024

THE RAINWATER HARVESTING IN GOVERNMENT
ESTABLISHMENTS AND SCHOOLS BILL, 2024

A

BILL

*to provide for mandatory rainwater harvesting in the buildings of
government establishments and schools to promote water
conservation, offset the challenges of water scarcity
and for matters connected therewith or
incidental thereto.*

BE it enacted by Parliament in the Seventy-fifth Year of the Republic of India
as follows:—

1. (1) This Act may be called the Rainwater Harvesting in Government
Establishments and Schools Act, 2024.

Short Title and
Commencement.

- 5 (2) It shall come into force on such date, as the Central Government may,
by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint.

Declaration of compulsory rainwater harvesting as a duty of the State in public interest.

Definitions.

2. It is hereby declared that it is expedient in the public interest that the State shall take adequate and urgent measures to provide for compulsory rainwater harvesting to achieve water security and control the depletion of water table to the extent hereinafter provided.

3. In this Act, unless the context otherwise requires, —
 - (a) "building" includes all such structures, sheds, houses and buildings which are wholly or partially owned, possessed built or occupied by the Government of India as may be notified by the Government under this Act;
 - (b) "Government" means the Central Government or the Union territory Administration, as the case may be;
 - (c) "Government establishment" means an establishment which is owned, established, controlled, managed or financed by the Central Government and includes—
 - (i) a Ministry or department or subordinate office or attached office of the Central Government;
 - (ii) a public sector undertaking or statutory authority constituted under any Central Act;
 - (iii) a corporation in which not less than fifty-one per cent of the paid-up share capital is held by the Central Government; and
 - (iv) a Government company as defined under clause (45) of section 2 of the Companies Act, 2013.
 - (d) "prescribed" means prescribed by rules made under this Act; and
 - (e) "rainwater harvesting" means collection and storage of rainwater from rooftop of a building or other parts of a building or from a vacant land for use or for the purpose of groundwater recharge.
 - (f) "school" means any recognised school imparting education from Class 1 to Class 12 and includes—
 - (i) a school established, owned or controlled by the appropriate Government or a local authority;
 - (ii) an aided school receiving aid or grants to meet whole or part of its expenses from the appropriate Government or the local authority;
 - (iii) a school belonging to specified category under the Right to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009; and
 - (iv) an unaided school not receiving any kind of aid or grants to meet its expenses from the appropriate Government or the local authority.

Explanation.— For the purposes of this clause, the expression "appropriate Government" shall mean in the case of a State, the Government of that State; in the case of a Union Territory, the Union Territory Administration and in all other cases, the Central Government.

- 4. **(1) Notwithstanding anything contained in any other law for the time being in force, it shall be mandatory to construct and provide necessary infrastructure for rainwater harvesting in buildings of government establishments and schools in such manner and within such time as may be prescribed.**

Mandatory rainwater harvesting.

Provided that the Government shall make it mandatory for constructing and developing rainwater harvesting in houses built under

the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana in Rural and Urban areas.

- 5 (2) The Government establishment shall notify an officer who shall be responsible for ensuring that the already installed rain water harvesting systems and/or that are installed in future, work efficiently and are maintained properly.
- (3) The Central Government shall review the progress of rain water harvesting in Government establishments and schools, from time to time, in such manner as may be prescribed.
- 10 **5.** Within six months of the coming into force of this act, the Government shall formulate a policy to promote and incentivize the practice of rainwater harvesting through development of appropriate technology and traditional practices. Policy to promote rainwater harvesting.
- 15 **6. (1) The Central Government shall, after due appropriation made by Parliament by law in this behalf, provide requisite funds, from time to time, for carrying out the purposes of this Act.** Central Government to provide requisite funds.
- (2) **The Central Government shall provide financial assistance in the form of grants and necessary technical assistance to the State Governments for the purpose of implementing the provisions of this Act in schools under their jurisdiction.**
- 20 **7. (1)** The Central Government shall be responsible for the implementation of the provisions of this Act in Government establishments and schools under its jurisdiction. Responsibility of the Central Government
- (2) The Central Government shall issue broad policy guidelines, technical standards, and recommendations for the installation, operation, and maintenance of rainwater harvesting systems in Government establishments and schools.
- 25 (3) The Central Government shall monitor the overall progress of implementation of the provisions of this Act across all States and ensure due compliance with the prescribed guidelines, in such manner as may be prescribed.
- 30 **8. (1)** The State Governments shall be responsible for the implementation of provisions of this Act in schools under their jurisdiction, in accordance with the guidelines issued by the Central Government under sub-section (2) of section 7. Role of the State Governments.
- 35 (2) The State Governments shall submit a report on the progress of implementation of the provisions of this Act in schools under their jurisdiction, the reasons for delay, if any, and the utilization of financial grants received from the Central Government under this Act, to the Central Government, in such form and manner and at such intervals of time, as may be prescribed.
- 40 **9.** The Central Government shall prepare a consolidated report on the progress of implementation of the provisions of this Act and the activities undertaken thereunder as well as the utilization of funds granted for the purpose in each financial year along with audit report thereon and cause the same to be laid before each House of Parliament. Central Government to lay report.
- 45 **10.** These provisions of this Act shall be in addition to and not in derogation of any other law for the time being in force. Act not in derogation of other laws.
- 11. (1)** The Central Government may, by notification in the Official Gazette, make rules for carrying out the purposes of this Act. Power to make rules.
- 50 (2) Every rule made under this Act shall be laid, as soon as may be after it is

made, before each House of Parliament, while it is in session, for a total period of thirty days which may be comprised in one session or in two or more successive sessions, and if, before the expiry of the session immediately following the session or the successive sessions aforesaid, both Houses agree in making any modification in the rule or both the Houses 5 agree that the rule should not be made, the rule shall thereafter have effect only in such modified form or be of no effect, as the case may be; so, however, that any such modification or annulment shall be without prejudice to the validity of anything previously done under that rule.

STATEMENT OF OBJECTS AND REASONS

India faces a significant water crisis due to increasing demand, rapid urbanization, and dwindling natural water sources. Rainwater harvesting has emerged as a vital method for conserving water, replenishing groundwater levels, and reducing dependence on external water sources. The Rainwater Harvesting in Government Establishments and Schools Bill, 2024 seeks to address India's water scarcity issues by mandating the installation and maintenance of rainwater harvesting systems in all government buildings, offices, and schools. By institutionalizing rainwater harvesting, this Bill aims to promote sustainable water use and ensure water security for future generations.

According to recent studies, India's per capita water availability has declined drastically over the years, and the country is now classified as a water-stressed nation. Many regions, especially urban and semi-urban areas, experience severe water shortages during the summer months, leading to socio-economic challenges, health issues, and environmental degradation. Rainwater harvesting is a feasible and cost-effective method to mitigate water scarcity. It allows rainwater to be collected, stored, and either used directly or used to recharge groundwater, providing a sustainable water source even during dry periods.

The Bill recognizes that government buildings and schools occupy a significant amount of land and infrastructure across India. These buildings, if equipped with rainwater harvesting systems, could collect substantial amounts of rainwater, thereby contributing positively to the water table and alleviating local water scarcity. Furthermore, as schools are centers of education, implementing rainwater harvesting in these institutions also serves to promote awareness among the younger generation, encouraging sustainable water practices from an early age.

Furthermore, by providing financial incentives and encouraging the development of new rainwater harvesting technologies, the Bill incentivizes innovation in water management practices. This will spur advancements in rainwater harvesting techniques, allowing the country to adopt modern, efficient, and cost-effective methods that maximize water collection and utilization.

In conclusion, the Rainwater Harvesting in Government Establishments and Schools Bill, 2024 represents a transformative approach to tackling India's water scarcity. By institutionalizing rainwater harvesting in government facilities, this Bill seeks to harness rainwater effectively, improve groundwater recharge, and instill sustainable water management practices. It is anticipated that these measures will significantly contribute to achieving India's water security goals and set an example for private and residential buildings to adopt similar practices. The Bill thus addresses a pressing environmental and social need, laying the groundwork for a future where every drop of rainwater is conserved and utilized responsibly.

Hence this Bill.

SANJAY SETH

FINANCIAL MEMORANDUM

Clause 4 of the Bill provides that it shall be mandatory to construct and provide necessary infrastructure for rainwater harvesting in buildings of government establishments and schools in such manner and within such time as may be prescribed. Clause 6 of the Bill provides that Central Government shall, after due appropriation made by Parliament by law in this behalf, provide requisite funds, from time to time, for carrying out the purposes of this Act.

The Bill, therefore, if enacted, would involve expenditure from the Consolidated Fund of India. At this stage, it is not possible to give an exact estimate of expenditure, both recurring and non-recurring, which will be involved from the Consolidated Fund of India, if the Bill is enacted into a law. However, it is estimated that a recurring expenditure of about rupees two hundred crore will be involved per annum from the Consolidated Fund of India.

A non-recurring expenditure of about rupees five hundred crore is also likely to be involved.

MEMORANDUM REGARDING DELEGATED LEGISLATION

Clause 11 of the Bill empowers the Central Government to make rules for carrying out the purpose of the Bill. As the rules will relate to matters of detail only, the delegation of legislative power is of a normal character.

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(Shri Sanjay Seth, M.P.)