

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3604

ANSWERED ON 03.04.2023

RAINWATER HARVESTING PROGRAMME IN TAMIL NADU

3604. SHRI K.R.N. RAJESHKUMAR

Will the Minister of **JAL SHAKTI** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether rainwater harvesting programme is being implemented by Government to address the problem of depleting groundwater level;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of the programmes being implemented in the State of Tamil Nadu;
- (d) the quantum of funds provided to the farmers for rainwater harvesting during the last five years;
- (e) if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI BISHWESWAR TUDU)

(a) & (b) Water being a State subject, efforts to conserve ground water including rainwater harvesting is primarily States' responsibility. Central Government supplements the efforts of the States through technical and financial support. The details of important steps taken by the Government to address the problem of depleting groundwater level are as follows:

- i. Master Plan for Artificial Recharge to Groundwater- 2020 has been prepared by Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) in consultation with States/UTs. The Master Plan envisages construction of about 1.42 crore rain water harvesting and artificial recharge structures in the country to harness 185 Billion Cubic Metre (BCM) of monsoon rainfall. The Master Plan has been circulated to all the States/UTs for implementation. There is no time limit fixed for its+ implementation.
- ii. Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) constituted under Section 3(3) of the "Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 grants No Objection Certificates (NOCs) for ground water abstraction to Industries, Infrastructure units and Mining projects in feasible areas in certain States/UTs where regulation is not being done by the States/UTs.

- iii. A nationwide programme of “National Aquifer Mapping and Management (NAQUIM)” for mapping of aquifers, their characterization and development of aquifer management facilitate sustainable development of groundwater resources.
- iv. The Ministry of Jal Shakti has been implementing Jal Shakti Abhiyan (JSA) since 2019 on an annual basis. JSA could not be implemented in 2020 due to Covid pandemic. In the current year, Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain 2023, 4th in the series of JSA, is being implemented from 04.03.2023 to 30.11.2023 mainly to address depleting groundwater and for water conservation and for rainwater harvesting.
- v. Government has been implementing Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) since 2015-16 with an aim to enhance physical access of water on farm and expand cultivable area under assured irrigation, improve on farm water use efficiency, introduce sustainable water conservation practices etc.
- vi. Atal Bhujal Yojana (ATAL JAL) is implemented with a view to improve the management of ground water resources including rainwater harvesting in water stressed areas through community participation in identified priority areas in 7 States. The scheme is to promote community led groundwater management and behavioural changes with primary focus on demand side management.
- vii. Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) includes water conservation and water harvesting structures as one of the activities under its natural resource management (NRM) component.
- viii. Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs has formulated guidelines for the States to adopt measures suitable to local conditions, such as Unified Building Bye Laws (UBBL) of Delhi, 2016, Model Building Bye Laws (MBBL), 2016 and Urban and Regional Development Plan Formulation and Implementation (URDPFI) Guidelines, 2014 with adequate focus on requirement of rainwater harvesting and water conservation measures.

(c) Central Government is implementing various schemes/programmes for rainwater harvesting in the State of Tamil Nadu. The important schemes/programmes of Central Government include Annual Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain campaign since 2021, Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) 2.0, MGNREGS, PMKSY etc.

(d) to (f) Water being a State subject, water conservation including rainwater harvesting is taken up by States. Central Government is implementing rainwater harvesting programmes through inter-sectoral convergence of various Central & State Government schemes. Therefore no specific information is available with regards to quantum of funds provided to the farmers for rainwater harvesting.
