

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION

**RAJYA SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2005**

ANSWERED ON 07.08.2023

**WATER CRISIS**

2005. SHRI NARAIN DASS GUPTA

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

- (a) whether Government has taken note of the WWF Report which indicates that at least 30 Indian cities are going to face grave water crisis by the year 2050;
- (b) if so, the measures taken by Government to mitigate the same, if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether Government has had any discussion or deliberations with the State Governments in this regard, if so, details thereof; and
- (d) whether Government has any justification for the untreated sewage still being discharged in the river Ganga even after introduction of the flagship scheme- Namami Gange and details thereof?

**ANSWER**

**THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI**

(SHRI BISHWESWAR TUDU)

**(a)** The report of World-Wide Fund for nature has mentioned that thirty Indian cities are going to face grave water crises by 2050. The average annual water availability of any region or country is largely dependent upon hydro-meteorological and geological factors; however, water availability per person is dependent on population of a country.

Based on the study titled “Reassessment of Water Availability in India using Space Inputs, 2019” conducted by Central Water Commission, the average annual per capita water availability for year 2021 and 2031 has been assessed as 1,486 cubic meter and 1,367 cubic meter respectively.

**(b) & (c)** Water being a State subject, steps for augmentation, conservation and efficient management of water resources are primarily undertaken by the respective State Governments. In order to supplement the efforts of the State Governments, Central Government provides technical and financial assistance to them through various schemes and programmes.

Government of India has launched Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) on 25<sup>th</sup> June, 2015 in select 500 cities and towns across the country. The water supply component includes new, augmentation and rehabilitation of water supply system; rejuvenation of water bodies for drinking water supply and special water supply arrangement for difficult areas, hills and coastal cities, including those having water quality problem.

Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain is a campaign which aims to encourage water conservation at grass-root levels with people's participation. Jal Shakti Abhiyan (JSA) was launched in the year 2019 in 256 water stressed districts of the country which has later been implemented across the country annually as “Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain” (JSA: CTR) since 2021. JSA:CTR has become an annual feature since 2021 and the fourth in the series, JSA: CTR 2023 has been launched on 04.03.2023 by Hon’ble President with the theme “Source Sustainability for Drinking Water”. The campaign covers all rural and urban areas of all districts (all blocks and municipalities) across the country. The focused interventions of the campaign include (i) water conservation and rainwater harvesting (ii) enumerating, geo-tagging & making inventory of all water bodies (iii) preparation of scientific plans for water conservation based on it Setting up of Jal Shakti Kendras in all districts (iv) intensive afforestation and (v) awareness generation.

The Government of India, in partnership with States, is implementing Jal Jeevan Mission-Har Ghar Jal, which aims at providing potable water in adequate quantity of prescribed quality on regular and long term basis to every rural household through tap water connection by 2024.

Some steps taken by Central Government to control water depletion and promote rain water harvesting / conservation are available at the URL:

<https://cdnbbsr.s3waas.gov.in/s3a70dc40477bc2adceef4d2c90f47eb82/uploads/2023/02/2023021742.pdf>

**(d)** The domestic sewage emanating from the towns located on the main stem of river Ganga and its discharge in untreated and partially treated form, is one of the important factor responsible for deterioration of physical, chemical and biological properties of Ganga water. Other reasons for pollution in river are discharges of untreated industrial flow as well as disposal of solid waste into the river.

At present, with the interventions taken up under Namami Gange Programme, the total sewage treatment capacity in 5 Ganga Basin states of Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal is **6,635** MLD. Additionally, projects for developing **3,954** MLD STP capacity have been taken up.

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