

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2022

ANSWERED ON 07.08.2023

EFFICIENT WATER MANAGEMENT

2022. SHRI HARBHAJAN SINGH

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

- (a) whether Government has taken any steps with regard to prevention of wastage and unscientific use of water in agriculture on large scale and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether Government has taken any steps to check massive wastage of water in public facilities like public toilets, railways, bus stations, tourist places and so on and if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the steps being taken to make public infrastructure water efficient in the country?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI BISHWESWAR TUDU)

(a) As the subject matters of water and agriculture falls under the State List of Seventh Schedule under Constitution of India, measures for prevention of wastage and unscientific use of water in agriculture are primarily taken by respective State Governments. Central Government has been supplementing the efforts of the State Governments by providing technical and financial assistance through various schemes and programmes. The measures for preventing wastage and unscientific use of water in agriculture are adopted under Command Area Development and Water Management (CADWM) component of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY). The CADWM works aims to provide last mile connectivity of irrigation water to farm gate while improving on-farm water use efficiency to reduce wastage of water. The CADWM Programme, in implementation since 1973-74. The Culturable Command Area (CCA) of 45.08 lakh hectares has been targeted under PMKSY-CADWM. The Cabinet has approved continuation of the scheme till 2026.

The Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (DA&FW) is also implementing Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Per Drop More Crop (PDMC) in the country from 2015-16. From the year 2015-16 to 2021-22, the PDMC was implemented as component of PMKSY. During the year 2022-23, the PDMC is being implemented under the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY). PDMC focuses on enhancing water use efficiency at farmer's farm level through Micro Irrigation namely, Drip and Sprinkler Irrigation Systems.

(b) The Central Government has taken various steps to facilitate and augment the efforts of State Governments in putting a check on wastage of water in public facilities across the country. Some of the key initiatives are mentioned below:

- i. **For Urban Areas:** The Government of India has taken several steps towards sustainable management of water in urban areas through issuance of various guidelines, implementation of National Missions i.e., Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) and AMRUT 2.0. In Water Supply sector, Urban Local Bodies / State may take up projects related to new/ augmentation/rehabilitation of water supply system; rejuvenation of water bodies for water supply and recharge of ground water etc. So far, 1,346 projects have been

grounded worth ₹42,863 crore including 1,026 completed projects worth ₹20,056 crore. Overall physical works worth ₹38,000 crore have been completed with ₹34,247 crore worth of expenditure incurred. Through these projects and in convergence with other programmes, 172 lakh household water tap connections have been provided so far. And 258 projects have SCADA component for efficient monitoring. These projects target to result to reduction in leakage of water through faulty pipelines.

- ii. **Under Railways:** In the Railways, water is mainly used at Railway stations, workshops, washing lines and Railway colonies, etc. For efficient and economical utilization of water and to ensure systematic approach in water management, "Indian Railway Water Policy" has been issued by Railway Board in 2017 wherein measurement and account of water consumption has been defined. Metering of the major supply and end-use points have been stressed upon to ascertain the wastage in the system including water saving opportunities. To check the wastage of water, inspections are carried out at regular interval from different level of officers.
- iii. **Under Civil Aviation:** The reuse of water and use of dry toilets at airports has been initiated by Airport Authority of India. For example, at Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport, Mumbai, saving of approximately 3.3 lakh litre of water daily is achieved by using dry toilets.

(c) The Central Government has taken various steps to make public infrastructure water efficient in the country as given below:

At Policy level: The National Water Policy, 2012 has recognized the importance of water use efficiency and has inter-alia made many recommendations in this regard, including (A) bringing in maximum efficiency in use of water and avoiding wastages; (B) use of economic incentives and penalties to reduce pollution and wastage; (C) setting up independent statutory Water Regulatory Authority by each State after wide ranging consultation with all stakeholders for equitable access to water for all and its fair pricing, for drinking and other uses such as sanitation, agricultural and industrial; (D) water charges be determined on volumetric basis; and (E) obligation on Industries in water short regions to return treated effluent to a specified standard back to the hydrologic system.

- ii. **For creating awareness:** The Ministry of Jal Shakti has circulated "General Guidelines for Water Audit and Water Conservation" (2005) as a useful reference for undertaking water saving measures in all sectors of water use and facilitate State Governments to formulate their own region-specific, project-specific, system-specific or service-specific guidelines. Besides this, Ministry of Jal Shakti has also circulated "Guidelines for improving water use efficiency in irrigation, domestic and industrial sectors" (2014) to the States for their beneficial use.

The National Water Mission (NWM) has been established by the Government of India with the objective of "conservation of water, minimizing wastage and ensuring its more equitable distribution both across and within States through integrated water resources development and management". NWM manages the annual Jal Shakti Abhiyan, to create awareness about water conservation.

- iii. **At implementation level:** To achieve the target of improvement in water use efficiency by 20%, a dedicated organization has been set up as Bureau of Water Use Efficiency (BWUE) under Ministry of Jal Shakti during October, 2022. BWUE will act as a facilitator for promotion of improving water use efficiency across various sectors namely irrigation, drinking water supply, power generation, industries, etc. in the country, for promotion, regulation and control of efficient use of water in irrigation, industrial and domestic sectors. To take works of BWUE forward and to prepare the frame work for implementation, a dedicated Task Force has been constituted to provide the framework document for overall management of water use efficiency in India.