

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 37
TO BE ANSWERED ON 20.07.2023

Steps taken to prevent the menace of climate change

37. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR:

Will the MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that many cities are facing untimely rains, severe droughts and flash floods due to climate change; and
- (b) the steps being taken by Government for water management and environment protection keeping in view the water crisis in Cape Town, South Africa so that future water crisis can be avoided in the country?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

- (a) There is no established study for India providing a quantified attribution of climate change directly causing untimely rains, severe droughts and flash floods. While many studies monitor disasters such as floods, drought and heat, the science of attribution of these changes particularly to climate change is far more complex and currently an evolving subject. Most studies so far have relied on mathematical modelling of climate change impacts but these are not empirically verified.

The occurrence of floods can be attributed to various factors, including wide variations in rainfall both in time and space with frequent departures from the normal pattern, inadequate carrying capacities of rivers, river bank erosion and silting of river beds, landslides, poor natural drainage in flood prone areas, snowmelt and glacial lake out-bursts.

- (b) Water being a State subject, water management including provision of water for urban areas is the responsibility of respective State Governments. The Central Government supplements the efforts of the State Governments through technical and financial assistance.

In order to boost efforts for water conservation and to fight water crisis, the Ministry of Jal Shakti has taken up a nationwide campaign "Jal Shakti Abhiyan" since 2019. Jal Shakti Abhiyan - Catch the Rain" campaign has been taken up as an annual programme

since 2021 with the theme “Catch the rain, where it falls, when it falls” for creating appropriate rainwater harvesting structures in urban and rural areas of all the districts in the country, with people's active participation during the pre-monsoon and monsoon periods.

National Water Policy (2012) inter-alia, advocates rainwater harvesting and conservation of water and highlights the need for augmenting the availability of water through direct use of rainfall. It also inter-alia, advocates conservation of water bodies. The Policy has been forwarded to all State Governments/ Union Territories and concerned Ministries/Departments of Central Government for adoption.

The Government is implementing the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC), which is the overarching policy framework for climate action in India, covering mitigation, adaptation and generation of strategic knowledge on climate change. It comprises of national missions in the specific areas of solar energy, enhanced energy efficiency, water, agriculture, the Himalayan ecosystem, sustainable habitat, health, green India and strategic knowledge on climate change. Further, 34 States/Union Territories have prepared State Action Plans on Climate Change (SAPCCs) consistent with the objectives of NAPCC.
