

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 437

ANSWERED ON 24.07.2023

STORAGE OF WATER

437. SHRI P. WILSON

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

- (a) the steps that have been taken to encourage States to build dams and to store rain water and conserve ground water levels and steps that have been taken by Government to ensure that recyclable water is not being let out into the sea as storage of water is an important necessity;
- (b) the reasons for the storage capacity decreasing in the last year; and
- (c) whether Government is planning to increase it?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI BISHWESWAR TUDU)

(a) Water being a State subject, it is for the State Governments concerned to take up water resources projects, including construction of dams, check dams to store rain water and conserve ground water levels etc. However, some of the measures taken by Government of India to encourage and supplement the efforts of the State Governments, are given below.

1. Under various components of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana, Government of India is providing partial financial assistance to identified projects for creation of new storages; extension/ renovation/ modernization (ERM) of major/ medium irrigation projects; surface minor irrigation projects; repair, renovation and restoration of water bodies; and construction of check-dams and other water harvesting structures.

2. Focused interventions under Jal Shakti Abhiyan annual campaigns taken up by the Government of India and the State Governments, inter-alia, include renovation of traditional and other water bodies/ tanks, enumeration, geo-tagging and making inventory of all water bodies, and removal of encroachments of tanks/ lakes, and de-silting of tanks.

3. Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) has provisions for public works relating to natural resource management, water conservation and water harvesting structures to augment and improve ground water like underground dykes, earthen dams, stop dams, check dams and roof top rain water harvesting structures in public buildings.

4. Launched in April 2022, Mission Amrit Sarovar is aimed at developing and rejuvenating at least 75 water bodies of minimum pondage area of 1 acre each, in each district of the country as a part of celebration of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav.

5. Ministry of Jal Shakti has conducted first Census of Water Bodies in convergence with the Sixth Minor Irrigation Census (Reference Year 2017-18) with the objective of developing a national data base of all water bodies in the country. The Water Bodies Census inter-alia contains information on all important aspects on the subject including their size, condition, status of encroachment, use storage capacity, status of filling up storage etc.

6. Atal Bhujal Yojana provides financial assistance for sustainable management of groundwater resources with community participation in selected areas of 80 districts, 229 blocks and 8,220 water stressed Gram Panchayats of 7 States.

7. Under Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), provision has been made for the preparation of Village Action Plan (VAP) by village community, which inter alia includes strengthening of drinking water sources including rain water harvesting in convergence with other schemes such as MGNREGS, Finance Commission grants to rural local bodies/ PRIs, MP & MLA's Local Area Development Fund, District Mineral Development Fund, CSR fund, etc.

8. Rejuvenation of water bodies is also a component under Water Supply sector of Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) Scheme under Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs. Further, AMRUT 2.0 launched in October, 2021, targets to promote circular economy of water through development of city water balance plan for each city focusing on recycle/reuse of treated sewage, rejuvenation of water bodies and water conservation.

(b) Inflow of silt in the reservoirs is the key reason for decrease in their storage capacity. Information on year-to-year change in storage capacity of reservoirs is not being maintained at Government of India level. However, as per "Compendium on Sedimentation of Reservoirs in India" published by Central Water Commission in 2020, based on average data of 126 reservoirs, annual percentage loss of live storage capacity of reservoirs is estimated to be 0.67%.

(c) Increase in capacity of reservoirs lies in the domain of the State Governments. However, Government of India provides technical assistance, and also partial financial assistance under its ongoing schemes, for the identified projects involving such works. The Ministry of Jal Shakti has published a National Framework for Sediment Management as a guidance document for management of sediment holistically.
