

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION
RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 86

ANSWERED ON 04.12.2023

SCHEME FOR ENCOURAGING WATER HARVESTING, STORAGE AND CONSERVATION

86 #. SHRI ADITYA PRASAD

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

- (a) whether there is any scheme to honour inspirational persons to encourage water harvesting in the country, if so, the State-wise details thereof; if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (b) whether there is any provision to reward the States which are on top in water storage and conservation and to fix accountability of the States which are lagging behind, if so, the details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI BISHWESWAR TUDU)

(a) & (b) Water is a state subject and the Central Government supplements the efforts of the states through technical and financial support. In order to recognize the efforts and to honour & reward the stakeholders, including individuals and states, who have done commendable work in the field of water resource management, National Water Awards are given to the them by the Ministry of Jal Shakti since 2018. The award winners in different categories are presented with a citation, trophy and cash prize. The 5th National Water Awards, 2023 have been launched the Rashtriya Puraskar Portal on 13th October, 2023. Applications have been sought under the following 10 different categories:

1. Best State.
2. Best District
3. Best Village Panchayat.
4. Best Industry
5. Best Water User Association
6. Best Urban Local Body
7. Best School or College
8. Best Civil Society.
9. Best Institution (other than School/College)
10. Best Individual for excellence.

Besides, National Water Mission, Ministry of Jal Shakti separately gave awards in 2019 to the stakeholders including individuals and states, as a one time effort, to recognize excellence in water conservation, efficient water use and sustainable water management practices.

In addition, National Water Mission (NWM) in collaboration with United Nations Development Programme and Stockholm International Water Institute identified 41 Women Water Champions to underscore the critical role of women in water conservation and management & promote women's leadership in water governance. The journey of these women who challenged the water crisis and steadily addressed the issues with grit, courage, and determination has been compiled and is available on the website of NWM (<https://nwm.gov.in/>).

The "Swachh Sujal Shakti Samman 2023" was organized by the Ministry of Jal Shakti to honor women champions of rural water and sanitation sector to felicitate the exceptional and exemplary work done at the grass roots level by women in the implementation of various schemes/ campaigns of the Ministry of Jal Shakti including that of Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch The Rain which encourages the community to take up water conservation with their active participation.
