

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION

RAJYA SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1520

ANSWERED ON 09.12.2024

JAL SANCHAY, JAN BHAGIDARI INITIATIVE

1520. SHRI PRAMOD TIWARI

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

- (a) whether rainwater harvesting structures are proposed to be constructed under Jal Sanchay, Jan Bhagidari initiative;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the parameters laid down for constructing such structures; and
- (d) the manner in which such structures will be instrumental in enhancing rainwater harvesting and ensuring long-term water sustainability?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI RAJ BHUSHAN CHOUDHARY)

(a) & (b) Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari initiative taken under the Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch The Rain (JSA:CTR) campaign of the Ministry of Jal Shakti is for construction/ renovation of artificial recharge structures for rain water harvesting with focus on borewell recharge structures / defunct borewells recharge/ recharge shaft and recharge pit. Around 2.93 lakh rainwater harvesting structures have been created till 5.12.2024.

(c) Ministry of Jal Shakti has issued an advisory on 07.10.2024 to State Governments which inter-alia include the indicative guidelines drafted by Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) for creation of such artificial recharge structures. The proposed recharge structures are scientifically designed low costs structures which are locally tailored made structures, the cost of which depends upon various factors like topography of the area, soil conditions, rainfall pattern, catchment area, roof material, rainwater storage capacity etc. Several types of artificial recharge structures have been defined which include rainwater harvesting systems in public & private buildings, injection borewells, recharge pits, restoration of open wells & recharge wells, recharge shafts, pond stabilization, stepwell restoration, etc.

(d) The primary aim of creating/renovating such structures is to enhance groundwater levels and support sustainable water management practices throughout the country, particularly during dry spells, supporting agriculture, drinking water supply thereby addressing water scarcity. Moreover, the rainwater harvesting structures inter-alia ensure boosting in groundwater levels, promotion of water conservation, enhancement of climate resilience by fostering sustainable groundwater management, improvement of water quality etc., thereby reducing vulnerability to droughts & ensuring long-term water sustainability by providing equitable access to water resources across diverse user groups.
