

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

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1833

ANSWERED ON 17.03.2025

ADDRESSING THE ESCALATING WATER CRISIS

1833. SHRI MOHAMMED NADIMUL HAQUE

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

- (a) whether Government recognizes the alarming decline in per capita water availability in the country, if so, the details thereof; and
- (b) whether there is a national framework for the mandatory adoption of water-efficient agricultural practices, such as, drip irrigation and waste water recycling, considering agriculture consumes 72 per cent of the country's fresh water resources, if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI RAJ BHUSHAN CHOUDHARY)

(a) & (b) The average annual water availability of any region or country is largely dependent upon hydro-meteorological and geological factors, however, water availability (as a finite natural resource) per person is dependent on population of a country. The per capita water availability in the country is reducing due to increase in population. Based on the study titled “Reassessment of Water Availability in India using Space Inputs, 2019” conducted by Central Water Commission, the average annual per capita water availability for year 2021 and 2031 has been assessed as 1486 cubic meter and 1367 cubic meter respectively. Annual per-capita water availability of less than 1700 cubic meter is considered as water stressed condition whereas annual per-capita water availability below 1000 cubic meters is considered as a water scarcity condition.

‘Water’ being a State subject, steps for augmentation, conservation and efficient management of water resources are primarily undertaken by the respective State Governments. In order to supplement the efforts of the State Governments, Union Government provides technical and financial assistance to them through various schemes and programs.

National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) under Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation, Ministry of Jal Shakti has developed a “National Framework for Safe Reuse of Treated Water” to guide States in formulating their water reuse policy and to establish economic models for the reuse of treated water.

The Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojna (PMKSY)-Har Khet Ko Pani launched by Ministry of Jal Shakti provides guidelines which outline promotion and adoption of water use efficiency & conservation

practices viz. drip/sprinkler, diversification to low water demand crops, promoting on-farm rainwater harvesting etc. and these shall be encouraged by the State Govt/ Project Authorities. Moreover, State/UT Government are to ensure that micro-irrigation practices are implemented in at least 30% of the proposed irrigated area in convergence with relevant scheme(s) of Central/State/UT Governments.

Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) has completed the National Aquifer Mapping (NAQUIM) Project in the entire mappable area of about 25 Lakh sq. km in the country. As a part of the NAQUIM studies, CGWB provides recommendations for improving ground water situation in the country. The recommendations include both supply side interventions and demand side interventions. The demand side interventions like Micro irrigation, drip irrigation, crop diversification etc. are recommended in feasible areas. The recommendations are shared with the State Governments.

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