

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF LAND RESOURCES**

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1583
TO BE ANSWERED ON 12.12.2025**

‘Watershed projects, public participation and Mission Watershed Punarutthaan in Gujarat’

1583. Shri Babubhai Jesangbhai Desai:

Will the Minister of **RURAL DEVELOPMENT** be pleased to state:

- (a) Whether there are any plans to implement new technologies, community participation, and innovations in Gujarat's watershed projects under PMKSY 2.0, in line with the decisions taken at the National Watershed Conference;
- (b) by when the implementation of "Mission Watershed Punarutthaan" would begin to maintain assets such as check dams, agricultural ponds, spring shed development, and pasture development constructed in Gujarat;
- (c) the steps being taken to promote Gujarat's participation in programs such as the Watershed Public Participation cup; and
- (d) the extent to which these initiatives are expected to improve water security, soil conservation, and increase farmers' incomes?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(DR. CHANDRA SEKHAR PEMMASANI)**

(a) Under WDC-PMKSY 2.0, Gujarat has been using the new technologies like Remote Sensing, GIS throughout the planning, implementation, monitoring and impact assessment of the watershed projects. Similarly use of SRISHTI portal and mobile application DRISHTI is done for real time monitoring of the scheme.

There has been an active community participation and involvement in planning of the project activities and monitoring the implementation of works.

Further, during the National Watershed Conference, deliberations have been held with Central/ State Govt. officers, domain knowledge scientists/ experts from various research Institutes and Agencies, eminent civil society workers and relevant NGOs to discuss the feasibility and modalities for incorporating the innovative approaches and new technologies in implementation of the future watershed projects.

(b) “Mission Watershed Punarutthan” has been launched for repair of assets created under earlier watershed projects (WDC-PMKSY 1.0).

All the districts in Gujarat have been instructed for collecting information and identification of the assets created under PMKSY-WDC 1.0 on community lands, which may require repair/maintenance. Accordingly, the required repair/maintenance will be done with the help of Watershed Development Fund (WDF) collected during the implementation of these projects and in convergence with MGNREGS. Moreover, the Mission Watershed Punarutthan will be implemented in phases on need based requirement of the repairing and maintenance of the assets created on the community land.

(c) The Department undertook a mass outreach campaign cum special drive, "Watershed Yatra" in project areas under WDC-PMKSY 2.0 across 26 States including Gujarat and 2 UTs w.e.f 5th February, 2025 onwards for realizing the Community Driven Watershed Development through "Janbhagidari". During the Watershed Yatra, major activities like ground breaking of new structures/works to be constructed, dedication of completed works, Shramdaan, Watershed ki Panchayat, honoring watershed Margdarshaks in each project were undertaken. To continue the momentum of Watershed Yatra, the Janbhagidari Cup was also launched to boost people's participation in soil and water conservation works developed in watershed project areas, to inculcate a sense of ownership amongst the local population and to generate healthy competition amongst watershed projects.

Efforts are being made for improving the public participation in the implementation of PMKSY-WDC to increase the reach of the programme and to implement the scheme in saturation mode. The Watershed Yatra Campaign was initiated to create the mass awareness among the public. During the Watershed Yatra civil society organizations were invited to participate in the programme by offering Janbhagidari under the Watershed Janbhagidari Cup-2025. Further, the Watershed Janbhagidari Cup is on for the year 2026 too.

(d) The nationwide campaign ‘Watershed Mahaotsava’ has been launched from Guntur, Andhra Pradesh, on 11th November, 2025. Major initiatives unveiled during the launch of Watershed Mahotsav include the following:

- Bhumi Poojan of new watershed works
- Lokarpan of completed watershed projects
- Launch of Mission Watershed Punarutthan, focused on renovation & repair of assets created under WDC-PMKSY 1.0.
- Felicitation of Watershed Janbhagidari Cup 2025 Winners, recognising exemplary community-led projects
- Launch of a social media competition to enhance awareness and visibility of watershed initiatives across India

The objective of this campaign *inter-alia* includes providing boost to the watershed activities /works and expediting effective utilization of the available funds for timely completion of the WDC-PMKSY 2.0 projects and foster community participation in watershed development thereby achieving the desired outcomes of WDC-PMKSY 2.0 including soil and water conservation, improvement in livelihoods and intended benefits to the farmers and the watershed communities.
