

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1285
TO BE ANSWERED ON 09.02.2018

Conservation of Water Resources

1285. SHRI SANJAY KAKA PATIL:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) the efforts being made by the Government to conserve the existing water resources and to explore new water resources in the country;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to formulate any scheme save water resources in the long term;
- (c) if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government proposes to involve Non-Governmental Environmental organisations in the scheme; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE (DR. MAHESH SHARMA)

(a) to (e) The Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation (MoWR, RD&GR) has been implementing the following schemes/plans for conservation of water resources :

- (i) Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) with the objective of enhancing physical access to water on farms, improve farm water use efficiency, introduce sustainable water conservation practices, etc.
- (ii) Repair, Renovation and Restoration (RRR) of water bodies, including ponds & tanks, which aims at improving catchment area of tank commands, increasing storage capacity, ground water recharge and increased availability of drinking water by promotion of conjunctive use of surface and ground water, etc.
- (iii) Implementation of National Water Mission with the objective of conservation of water, minimizing wastage and ensuring its more equitable distribution both across and within States through integrated water resources development and management.
- (iv) Ground Water Management and Regulation to conserve and replenish ground water in the country. As a part of this programme, Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) has issued advisories to all States to take measures to promote/adopt artificial recharge to ground water/rain water harvesting. Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) has also been organizing mass awareness programmes in the

country to promote water conservation & rain water harvesting. Special focus is also given through MGNREGA (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act) scheme for water conservation and water harvesting structures to augment ground water.

The National Water Policy-2012 formulated by MoWR, RD&GR, inter-alia, advocates conservation, promotion and protection of water and highlights the need for augmenting the availability of water through rain water harvesting, direct use of rainfall and other management measures. The policy document has been forwarded to all States and concerned Ministries/Departments of Central Government for adoption of policy.

This Ministry has also been supplementing the efforts of the State Governments in abatement of pollution and conservation of rivers, lakes & wetlands under the programmes of National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) and National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Eco-systems (NPCA), on a cost sharing basis between the Central and State Governments.

NRCP has so far covered polluted stretches of 32 rivers in 76 towns spread over 14 States in the country at a sanctioned cost of Rs. 4579.56 crore (excluding Ganga and its tributaries), and Central share of Rs. 2207.97 crore has been released to the State Governments for implementation of various pollution abatement schemes. Sewage treatment capacity of 2455.43 mld (million litres per day) has been created so far under the NRCP. Under NPCA, an amount of Rs. 167.96 crore has been released so far to the States and other organizations for conservation and management of 82 identified wetlands in the country. Similarly, this Ministry has so far sanctioned projects for conservation of 64 lakes at a total cost of Rs. 1118.08 crores. So far, Central share of Rs.719.627 crore has been released to the State Governments for the sanctioned projects and work on 36 lakes has been completed.

State Governments, apart from their own budgetary allocation, are also accessing financial assistance for creation of sewerage infrastructure, including STPs, in various cities/towns under Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) and Smart Cities Mission of Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs as well as Namami Gange programme of MoWR, RD&GR.

To control discharge of industrial effluents, the CPCB and respective State Pollution Control Boards/Pollution Control Committees monitor industries with respect to effluents discharge standards and take action for non-compliance under the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 and the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

This Ministry under the "Swachh aur Swastha Bharat" campaign encourages Shram-dhan with the participation of public, NGOs and involving stakeholders for cleaning of river banks and surroundings of lakes.