

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES,  
RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION  
**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1483**  
ANSWERED ON 26.07.2018

**RAIN WATER HARVESTING**

1483. SHRI RAMESWAR TELI

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has proposed to launch any scheme for rainwater harvesting both for irrigation of cultivable land and domestic use;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government is aware of rapid depletion and excessive exploitation of ground water; and
- (d) if so, the steps being planned by the Government to address this serious issue?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION & PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS

(SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL)

**(a) & (b)** Ministry of Water Resources, RD & GR has circulated a Model Bill to all States/UTs to enable them to enact suitable ground water legislation for its regulation and development which includes provision of rain water harvesting. So far, 15 States/UTs have adopted and implemented the ground water legislation on the lines of Model bill. 30 States/UTs have made roof top rain water harvesting mandatory by enacting laws or by formulating rules & regulations or by including provisions in building bye-laws or through suitable Government Orders.

Ministry of Urban Development has circulated its Model Building Bye-Laws (2016) to all State Governments which, inter-alia, incorporates provisions for Rain Water Harvesting. Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) mandates the States to formulate a policy and action plan for rain water harvesting structures in all commercial, public buildings and new buildings on plots of 300 sq.m and above.

Ministry of Rural Development in consultation and agreement with the Ministry of Water Resources, RD & GR and the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare has developed an actionable framework for Natural Resources Management (NRM), titled "Mission Water Conservation" to ensure gainful utilization of funds. The Framework strives to ensure synergies in Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY), Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) and

Command Area Development & Water Management (CAD&WM), given their common objectives. Types of common works undertaken under these programmes/schemes are water conservation and management, water harvesting, soil and moisture conservation, groundwater recharge, flood protection, land development, Command Area Development & Watershed Management.

Department of Land Resources is currently implementing 8214 watershed development projects in 28 States covering an area of about 39.07 million ha. under the Watershed Development Component (WDC) of the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) principally for development of rainfed portions of net cultivated area and culturable wastelands. The major activities taken up under the WDC-PMKSY, inter-alia, include ridge area treatment, drainage line afforestation, soil and moisture conservation, rain water harvesting, horticulture, and pasture development etc..

(c) & (d) Ground water levels in various parts of the Country are declining because of continuous withdrawal due to reasons such as increased demand of fresh water for various uses, vagaries of rainfall, increased population, industrialization & urbanization etc.

As per latest assessment (year 2013), carried out by Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) jointly with State Governments, out of 6584 assessment units in the country, 1034 assessment units are categorized as “Over-Exploited”.

Water being a State subject, initiatives on water management including conservation and rainwater harvesting / artificial recharge to ground water is primarily States’ responsibility. However, steps taken by the Central Government for conservation of ground water are available at the following URL [http://mowr.gov.in/sites/default/files/MeasuresForGW-Depletion\\_1.pdf](http://mowr.gov.in/sites/default/files/MeasuresForGW-Depletion_1.pdf).

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