

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI,  
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION  
**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. †3093**  
ANSWERED ON 11.07.2019

**SILT ACCUMULATION IN WATER BODIES**

†3093. SHRI SUNIL KUMAR PINTU

Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

- (a) whether rain water is not getting harvested due to accumulation of silt in the rivers, water-reservoirs, ponds etc. in the country specially in Sitamarhi district of Bihar resulting in the depletion of ground water level considerably; and
- (b) if so, the details of the schemes made/being made to resolve this problem and to maintain the level of ground water?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI & SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT  
(SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA)

(a)to (b) Siltation in the rivers and water bodies may affect the percolation of water and recharge of ground water. However, ground water levels mainly decline 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.

Water being a State subject, initiatives on water management including conservation and artificial recharge to ground water in the Country is primarily States' responsibility. However, the Central Government has taken up important long term policy initiatives for conservation of ground water and rain water harvesting to recharge ground water in order to control depletion of ground water level in the country which are available at [http://mowr.gov.in/sites/default/files/Steps\\_to\\_control\\_water\\_depletion\\_Jun2019.pdf](http://mowr.gov.in/sites/default/files/Steps_to_control_water_depletion_Jun2019.pdf)

Central Government supports construction of water harvesting and conservation works primarily through Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana – Watershed Development Component (PMKSY-WDC) and PMKSY-Per Drop More Crop. Under these Schemes, 17,56,207 water conservation and recharging structures have been constructed at an expenditure of Rs. 23,435.67 crore in the last three years. The details of works taken up under MGNREGS in the district of Sitamarhi in the State of Bihar during 2018-19 are as under:

Renovation of traditional water bodies		Water Conservation and Water Harvesting	
Completed & Spillover works PHY. (Nos.)	Expenditure made (in lakhs)	Completed & Spillover works PHY. (Nos.)	Expenditure made (in lakhs)
53	36.68	542	301.1

Further, the Repair, Renovation and Restoration (RRR) of Water Bodies Scheme under Pradhan MantriKrishiSinchayeeYojana (PMKSY) aims at increasing irrigation potential by improvement and restoration of water bodies along with other multiple objectives such as enhancing the tank storage capacity, ground water recharge etc. Scope of works under the scheme includes desilting, repair of conveyance system, strengthening of bunds etc.

Under the RRR of Water Bodies scheme, a total of 2064 water bodies (including 27 water bodies from State of Bihar) with an estimated cost of 1765 crore have been taken up for restoration in various States since XII Plan onwards, out of which 1160 water bodies have been reported to be completed with potential restoration of 0.88 Lakh hectare upto March, 2019. Total Central Assistance amounting to 369.11 crore (including 6.255 crore to the State of Bihar) has been released to the States upto March, 2019 for completion of works of these water bodies.

\*\*\*\*\*