

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

STARRED QUESTION NO. *105

ANSWERED ON 09.02.2023

REDUCTION IN WATER CONSUMPTION

*105 SHRIMATI SAJDA AHMED

Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps taken by the Government to reduce the water footprint of consumption in the country;
- (b) whether the Government has taken note that the huge virtual water trade of India is a great concern for water security and if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government has taken any steps to reduce the export of goods with high virtual water and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government has assessed the water consumption in the farming of Makhana and if so, the details thereof; and
- (e) whether the Government has formulated any policy on virtual water trade and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

(a) to (e) : A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF STARRED QUESTION No. *105 TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 09.02.2023 REGARDING “REDUCTION IN WATER CONSUMPTION”

- a. The various steps taken by the Government to reduce water footprint, inter alia include the following-
- i. Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojna (PMKSY) is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme which addresses convergence of investments in irrigation at the field level and targets to expand the cultivable area under assured irrigation through ‘Har Khet Ko Pani’ (HKKP), and to improve on-farm water use efficiency (WUE) to reduce wastage of water.
 - ii. Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation (DoWR, RD&GR) is implementing Atal Bhujal Yojana in identified water stressed areas of 7 states . The scheme focuses on community participation and demand side interventions for sustainable ground water management .
 - iii. National Water Mission (NWM) has undertaken baseline studies for irrigation projects and benchmarking studies for industries on water use efficiency through reputed institutes.
 - iv. 'Jal Shakti Abhiyan (JSA) - Catch the Rain (CTR)' campaign and 'Sahi Fasal' campaign have created mass awareness about efficient use of water. Sahi Fasal promotes crops, which are suited to the agro-climatic zone keeping in view water availability.
 - v. The Ministry of Jal Shakti (MoJS) under NWM has set up the Bureau of Water Use Efficiency (BWUE) to facilitate promotion of improving water use efficiency across various sectors namely irrigation, drinking water supply, power generation, industries etc and inter alia also assess water footprint.
 - vi. Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation (DoWR, RD&GR) with technical assistance from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) has taken up a new initiative called ‘Support for Irrigation Modernization Programme’ (SIMP) for application of national and international best practices for modernizing Major & Medium Irrigation (MMI) projects in India to improve water use efficiency and crop water productivity.
 - vii. Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) has taken several steps towards sustainable management of water in urban areas through the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT). AMRUT was launched on June 25, 2015 in 500 select cities across the country covering around 60% of the urban population. AMRUT focuses on development of basic urban infrastructure of water supply and sewerage & septage management, storm water drainage, non-motorised public transport and green spaces & parks are other minor components covered under the mission.
 - viii. Department of Agriculture & Farmers’ Welfare (DA&FW) is implementing Centrally Sponsored Scheme of ‘Per Drop More Crop’ (PDMC) in the country from 2015-16. The PDMC focuses on enhancing water use efficiency at farm level through micro irrigation.
 - ix. Recognizing the enormous potential of millet both as a nutrient and a low water consuming crop, the Government had proposed to the United Nations to declare the year 2023 as International Year of Millet. The UN has declared the same and various initiatives are being taken to encourage

the production and consumption of millets, as a replacement to the water intensive crops like rice and wheat.

- x. Indian Council Agricultural Research (ICAR) promotes use of efficient irrigation methods including micro-irrigation, precision technologies for irrigation and farming practices, optimum irrigation scheduling, resource conservation technologies, adoption of modern agronomic practices like raised bed sowing, alternate furrow irrigation, mulching, Direct Seeded Rice (DSR), System of Rice Intensification (SRI), laser land leveling, conservation agricultural practices, crop diversification adopting crops/varieties which require less water etc to reduce water footprint in agriculture and improve water use efficiency.

b & c. The Government has set up the Bureau of Water Use Efficiency (BWUE) under the National Water Mission, Ministry of Jal Shakti, to facilitate promotion of water use efficiency across various sectors namely irrigation, drinking water supply, power generation, industries etc and *inter alia* also assess water footprint.

d. Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has assessed the water requirement of Makhana crop. Makhana is an aquatic crop and is normally grown in stagnant water bodies like ponds, low depressions, lakes, etc. It requires a standing water level of 1.2–1.8 m height (12,000-18,000 cubic meter per ha) when grown in pond ecosystems. However, an improved method of cultivation of Makhana in agricultural field requires standing water of about 30 cm (3,000 cubic meter per ha).

e. No, Sir.
