

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

**LOK SABHA**

**STARRED QUESTION NO. \*230**

ANSWERED ON 16.03.2023

**RAINWATER HARVESTING**

\*230 SHRI RAJENDRA DHEDYA GAVIT

Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has any proposal to launch any major drive for rainwater harvesting in co-operation with the State Governments across the country for irrigation of agricultural fields during non-monsoon months and recharging the depleting ground water table; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

**THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI**

(SHRI BISHWESWAR TUDU)

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

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) AND (b) OF LOK SABHA  
STARRED QUESTION NO. \*230 FOR REPLY ON 16.03.2023 REGARDING RAINWATER  
HARVESTING**

**(a) & (b)** The Central Government supplements the efforts of the States through technical and financial support. Water conservation through rainwater harvesting is one of the foremost priorities of the Government being implemented across the country in close coordination with States. Effective rainwater harvesting is instrumental in irrigation of the agricultural fields during non-monsoon months and in recharging the depleting ground water table.

In order to effectively implement the rainwater harvesting across the country, the Government undertakes various activities in the form of special drives, schemes and programmes. Some of the major steps taken by the Government of India in this regard are as follows:

- i. The Ministry of Jal Shakti has been implementing Jal Shakti Abhiyan (JSA) since 2019 on an annual basis. JSA could not be implemented in 2020 due to Covid pandemic. In the current year, Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain 2023, 4th in the series of JSA is being implemented from 04.03.2023 to 30.11.2023. Rainwater harvesting is one of the major components of the campaign. States/UTs have been advised to actively participate in JSA:CTR 2023 and have also been suggested to undertake rain harvesting activities under JSA:CTR.
- ii. Government has been implementing Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) since 2015-16 with an aim to enhance physical access of water on farm and expand cultivable area under assured irrigation, improve on farm water use efficiency, introduce sustainable water conservation practices etc. The scheme of Surface Minor Irrigation (SMI) and Repair, Renovation & Restoration (RRR) of Water Bodies has now become a part of PMKSY (Har Khet Ko Pani). The SMI & RRR of Water Bodies Schemes have multiple objectives like expanding cultivable area under assured irrigation by improvement and restoration of water bodies inter alia increasing ground water recharge and revival of lost irrigation potential.
- iii. Watershed Development Component of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (WDC-PMKSY) has got rainwater harvesting as one of the activities under its Natural Resource Management (NRM) component.
- iv. Atal Bhujal Yojana (ATAL JAL) has been launched with the objective to improve the management of ground water resources including rainwater harvesting in water stressed areas through community participation in identified priority areas in 7 states viz. Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.
- v. Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) includes water conservation and water harvesting structures as one of the activities under its natural resource management (NRM) component.

- vi. Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs has formulated guidelines for the States to adopt measures suitable to local conditions, such as Unified Building Bye Laws (UBBL) of Delhi, 2016, Model Building Bye Laws (MBBL), 2016 and Urban and Regional Development Plan Formulation and Implementation (URDPFI) Guidelines, 2014 with adequate focus on requirement of rainwater harvesting and water conservation measures.
- vii. 15th Finance Commission grants have been released to States to be utilized through Rural Local Bodies. Financial assistance given to various States under 15th Finance Commission tied grants can be *inter alia* utilised for rainwater harvesting and water recycling.
- viii. Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) while granting No Objection Certificates (NOCs) for ground water abstraction envisages that the proponents shall install roof top rain water harvesting & recharge systems in the project area.
- ix. Department of Agriculture & Farmers' Welfare (DA&FW) is implementing Centrally Sponsored Scheme of 'Per Drop More Crop' (PDMC) in the country from 2015-16. PDMC focuses on enhancing water use efficiency at farm level through micro irrigation.

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