

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

**STARRED QUESTION NO. \*235**

ANSWERED ON 16.03.2023

**REVIVAL OF TRADITIONAL WATER BODIES**

\*235 SHRI SUDHAKAR TUKARAM SHRANGARE SHRI RAJENDRA AGRAWAL:

Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated any plan to trace out old and ancient ponds and water bodies which have been extinct across the country especially in Latur district of Maharashtra, Bilaspur district of Chhattisgarh and Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the number of ponds/water bodies revived during the last three years, year-wise; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to remove encroachment of ancient ponds/water bodies and also to revive them across the country?

**ANSWER**

**THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI**

(SHRI BISHWESWAR TUDU)

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

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (a) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. \*235 FOR REPLY ON 16.03.2023 REGARDING REVIVAL OF TRADITIONAL WATER BODIES**

**(a) & (b)** Water being a State subject, initiatives on water management including conservation & water harvesting and revival/rejuvenation of water bodies in the country is primarily States' responsibility. Central Government extends financial and technical support to the State Government. Ministry of Jal Shakti had constituted a Committee to identify 75 Water Heritage Structures (WHS) in reference to 75 years of India's independence, which also includes 4 structures from the State of Uttar Pradesh. In this connection, "Jal-Itihas" sub-portal under India-WRIS portal, showcasing the 75 WHS, was launched (<https://indiawris.gov.in/wris/>) on 5th January, 2023 at the 1<sup>st</sup> All India State Ministers' Conference on Water at Bhopal.

Further, water conservation and rainwater harvesting is one of the focused interventions of Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain (JSA: CTR) campaign which inter alia includes renovation of traditional water bodies, removal of encroachments of tanks/lakes and rejuvenation of water bodies. The details of number of water bodies/tanks renovated in JSA-2019 and JSA: CTR 2021 & 2022 are as follows:

S No.	Renovation of traditional & other water bodies and tanks in Jal Shakti Abhiyan	Year
1	44,497	2019
2	1,79,950	2021 (from 22.03.2021 to 28.03.2022)
3	1,61,171	2022 (from 29.3.2022 to 03.03.2023)

Ministry of Jal Shakti has also launched the first Census of Water bodies in convergence with the Sixth Minor Irrigation Census (reference year 2017-18) under the centrally sponsored scheme "Irrigation Census". The water bodies' census inter alia collects information on all important aspects on the subject including their type (i.e. ponds, tanks, lakes, water conservation schemes/percolation tanks/check-dams), condition, status of encroachments, use, storage capacity, status of filling up of storage etc.

Further, DoWR, RD & GR, Ministry of Jal Shakti is implementing Repair, Renovation and Restoration (RRR) of Water Bodies under Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) with main objectives as comprehensive improvement and restoration of water bodies thereby increasing tank storage capacity, improvement of catchment areas of tank command etc.

**(c)** Water is a State subject and, therefore, making the water bodies free from encroachment falls under their mandate. Further, as per the guidelines of RRR scheme, States are to take necessary steps for declaring the water body boundary through a Government order and ensure removal of encroachments in the water body spread area/water body boundary before submitting a proposal for release of installment of central assistance.

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