

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION

**LOK SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3520**

ANSWERED ON 10.08.2023

**GUIDELINES FOR RESTORATION OF WATER BODIES**

3520. MS. RAMYA HARIDAS SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH

Will the Minister of **JAL SHAKTI** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has prepared any guidelines at the national level for the conservation and restoration of water bodies/water sources and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Government has traced all types of water bodies/sources that are disappearing in the country during the last five years and if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise; and
- (c) the details of the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for their conservation and restoration during the said period?

**ANSWER**

**THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI**

(SHRI BISHWESWAR TUDU)

(a) Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) under Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, has in 2019, published “Indicative Guidelines for Restoration of Water Bodies”. These indicative guidelines are limited to restoration of ponds, lakes, polluted rivers or streams and divided into two parts i.e., stagnated surface water bodies such as ponds, lakes and rolling surface water bodies such as rivers or streams. The key issues addressed by these indicative guidelines include the following:

- i. to make pollution free water bodies and to meet the desired water quality criteria;
- ii. to preserve excess water during monsoon,
- iii. to restore and augment storage capacities of water bodies
- iv. to serve and enhance ground water recharge;
- v. increase availability of water for different intended purposes etc.,

Apart from the above, scheme specific guidelines for restoration of water bodies are also being issued by various Government agencies concerned. This Ministry has issued guidelines for such works to be undertaken under Repair, Renovation and Restoration of Water Bodies component of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana – Har Khet Ko Pani. Similarly, Ministry of Rural Development has issued guidelines for such works under Mission Amrit Sarovar, while the then Ministry of Housing and Urban Development had, in the year 2013, issued an advisory on conservation and restoration of water bodies in urban areas.

(b) & (c) Water being a State subject, tracing the water bodies / sources that are disappearing, maintaining details in this regard, as well as conservation and restoration of water bodies, lies in the

domain of the State Government concerned. However, some of the measures taken by Government of India for supplementing the efforts of the State Government, are given below.

1. Under Repair, Renovation and Restoration of water bodies components of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana- Har Khet Ko Pani, partial financial assistance is provided by Government of India for renovation of identified projects/ clusters of water bodies.
2. Focused interventions under Jal Shakti Abhiyan annual campaigns taken up by the Government of India and the State Governments, inter-alia, include renovation of traditional and other water bodies/ tanks, enumeration, geo-tagging and making inventory of all water bodies, and removal of encroachments of tanks/ lakes, and de-silting of tanks.
3. Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) has provisions for public works relating to natural resource management, water conservation and water harvesting structures to augment and improve ground water like underground dykes, earthen dams, stop dams, check dams and roof top rain water harvesting structures in public buildings.
4. Launched in April 2022, Mission Amrit Sarovar is aimed at developing and rejuvenating at least 75 water bodies of minimum pondage area of 1 acre each, in each district of the country as a part of celebration of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav.
5. Ministry of Jal Shakti has conducted first Census of Water Bodies in convergence with the Sixth Minor Irrigation Census (Reference Year 2017-18) with the objective of developing a national data base of all water bodies in the country. The Water Bodies Census inter-alia contains information on all important aspects on the subject including their size, condition, status of encroachment, use storage capacity, status of filling up storage etc.
6. Rejuvenation of water bodies is also a component under Water Supply sector of Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) Scheme under Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs. Further, AMRUT 2.0 launched in October, 2021, targets to promote circular economy of water through development of city water balance plan for each city focusing on recycle/reuse of treated sewage, rejuvenation of water bodies and water conservation.

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