

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2474
TO BE ANSWERED ON 13.12.2021

Revival of Lakes/Ponds

2474. SHRI KAUSHALENDRA KUMAR:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is formulating any action plan to revive dying, lakes, ponds, puddles, wells and step wells in the country;
- (b) whether any survey has been conducted to find out the reasons for the dying condition of the said water resources which were alive earlier; and
- (c) the efforts made by the Government for rejuvenation and recharge of groundwater along with the State-wise details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE
(SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY)

(a) The Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF&CC) is currently implementing a centrally sponsored scheme namely, National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Eco-systems (NPCA) for conservation and management of wetlands (includes lakes, ponds etc.) in the country on cost sharing basis between Central Government and respective State Governments. The scheme covers various activities such as interception, diversion and treatment of wastewater, shoreline protection, lake front development, in-situ cleaning i.e. desilting & deweeding, storm water management, bioremediation, catchment area treatment, lake beautification, survey & demarcation, bio-fencing, fisheries development, weed control, biodiversity conservation, education and awareness creation, community participation, etc.

In addition to NPCA, MoEF&CC is implementing the Wetlands (Conservation and Management) Rules, 2017, Ramsar Convention on Wetlands, Capacity Building & Outreach programmes and also a focused four pronged strategy for Wetlands Rejuvenation Programme.

Further, as informed by the Ministry of Jal Shakti, water resources projects are planned, funded, executed and maintained by the State Governments themselves as per their own resources and priorities. Role of Central Government is limited to being catalytic, providing technical support and in some cases, partial financial assistance in terms with the existing schemes being implemented by them such as Repair, Renovation & Restoration (RRR) of water bodies scheme under Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY)- Har Khet Ko Pani (HKKP). The RRR of water bodies scheme aims at revival of irrigation potential by improvement and restoration of water bodies by enhancing the tank storage capacity along with other multiple objectives such as ground water recharge, increased availability of drinking water, improvement of catchment of tank commands etc.

(b) While the Central and State Governments take all possible steps for the preservation, conservation and restoration of water bodies, developmental activities and anthropogenic pressures do affect water bodies.

(c) As informed by the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), Ministry of Jal Shakti, Master Plan for Artificial Recharge to Groundwater-2020 has been prepared by them in consultation with States/Union Territories (UTs) which is a macro level plan indicating various structures for the different terrain conditions of the country including estimated cost. The Master Plan envisages construction of about 1.42 crore rain water harvesting and artificial recharge structures in the Country to harness 185 Billion Cubic Metre (BCM) of monsoon rainfall. The “Master Plan for Artificial Recharge to Ground Water in India - 2020” is available at <http://cgwb.gov.in/Master%20Plan%20to%20GW%20Recharge%202020.pdf>.

CGWB has taken up Aquifer Mapping and Management Programme, under the scheme of Ground Water Management and Regulation. The Aquifer Mapping is aimed to delineate aquifer disposition and their characterization for preparation of aquifer/area specific ground water management plans with community participation. The management plans are shared with the respective State Governments for taking appropriate measures/implementation. The State and UT-wise details are given in **Annexure-I**.

The Ministry of Jal Shakti has circulated a Model Bill to all the States/UTs to enable them to enact suitable ground water legislation for regulation of its development, which also includes provision of rain water harvesting. So far, 19 States/UTs have adopted and implemented the ground water legislation.

Model Building Bye Laws (MBBL) 2016 circulated by the Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs include provisions for Rainwater Harvesting and it has been shared with all the States/UTs. So far, 32 States/UTs have adopted the provisions of rainwater harvesting of MBBL-2016.

The other important measures taken by the Central Government for sustainable ground water management are available at the following URL: http://jalshakti-dowr.gov.in/sites/default/files/Steps_to_control_water_depletion_Feb2021.pdf.

Annexure-I

State and UT-wise areas (in km²) for which aquifer maps have been prepared and management plans have been developed since the inception of the programme (as on October, 2021)

Sl. No.	Name of the State/ UT	Area for which aquifer maps and management plans have been prepared (km²)
1	Andaman & Nicobar (UT)	800
2	Andhra Pradesh	79285
3	Arunachal Pradesh	3399
4	Assam	29623
5	Bihar	47358
6	Chandigarh (UT)	115
7	Chhattisgarh	67514
8	Dadra & Nagar Haveli and Daman Diu	490
9	Delhi (UT)	1483
10	Goa	3702
11	Gujarat	120804
12	Haryana	44179
13	Himachal Pradesh	7890
14	Jammu & Kashmir (UT)	9506
15	Jharkhand	41771
16	Karnataka	130087
17	Kerala	26226
18	Lakshadweep (UT)	32
19	Ladakh (UT)	963
20	Madhya Pradesh	159642
21	Maharashtra	190791
22	Manipur	1655
23	Meghalaya	8678
24	Mizoram	700
25	Nagaland	910
26	Odisha	78001
27	Puducherry (UT)	454
28	Punjab	50368
29	Rajasthan	270171
30	Sikkim	280
31	Tamil Nadu	105829
32	Telangana	89121
33	Tripura	6757
34	Uttar Pradesh	181027
35	Uttarakhand	10142
36	West Bengal	36465
Total		1806218