

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION

LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO. *141

ANSWERED ON 01.08.2024

CHALLENGES IN IMPLEMENTATION OF SCHEMES

*141. SHRI VIJAYAKUMAR ALIAS VIJAY VASANTH

Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of primary challenges currently affecting the implementation of initiatives/schemes of the Ministry across different States;
- (b) the manner in which the Ministry is addressing the issues of water scarcity, pollution and inefficient water management practices;
- (c) the steps taken by the Ministry to enhance water conservation efforts and promote sustainable use of water resources during the last three years;
- (d) the details of any new policies or initiatives proposed to tackle emerging challenges faced by the Ministry for the remaining part of 2024;
- (e) whether the Ministry has any collaborations or partnerships with States, NGOs, or international organizations aimed at improving water resource management and if so, the details thereof; and
- (f) the measures being taken by the Government to ensure transparency and accountability in the allocation and utilization of funds earmarked for projects/schemes under the Ministry?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI C R PAATIL)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (f) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. *141 TO BE ANSWERED ON 01.08.2024 IN LOK SABHA REGARDING “CHALLENGES IN IMPLEMENTATION OF SCHEMES”

(a) The primary implementation challenges of Jal Shakti initiatives inter alia include (1) Land Acquisition, Relief and Rehabilitation, Court Cases, Contract Management in Water Infrastructure Projects (2) Lack of coordination among various agencies and stakeholders (3) Community Participation and Behavioral Change (4) Insufficient Institutional Capacities at State and local Level.

(b) & (c) Water being a State subject, the mandate for addressing issues such as water scarcity, pollution and inefficient water management practices along with enhancing water conservation efforts and promoting sustainable use of water resources lies with the State Government. However, Government of India has taken a number of initiatives to supplement the efforts of the State Governments through technical and financial support.

Major steps taken by the Ministry to address Water Scarcity includes increasing the surface and ground water storage capacities through schemes such as Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana, Atal Bhujal Yojana, Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch The Rain. Initiatives for pollution abatement including municipal sewage and industrial effluents is undertaken through schemes like Namami Gange, National River Conservation Plan. To enhance efficient water management practices, the National Water Mission works with multiple stakeholders to promote and facilitate efficient use of water in agriculture, industrial and domestic sector. Micro irrigation is being promoted under Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayi Yojana.

In addition to above initiatives, the Ministry has taken various other steps to enhance water conservation and promotion of sustainable use of water resources through recommendation in the National Water Policy 2012, establishment of Central Ground Water Authority to regulate over extraction of Ground Water, promotion of Reuse of Treated Water. Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) has completed the National Aquifer Mapping (NAQUIM) Project in the entire mappable area of about 25 lakh sq. km. which has been shared with the respective State agencies for implementation. The management plans include various water conservation measures through recharge structures. CGWB has also prepared a Master Plan for Artificial Recharge to Groundwater- 2020 in consultation with States/UTs which is a macro level plan indicating various structures for the different terrain conditions of the country. The Master Plan has provisions for 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. Water Body Census 2023, the first ever data base of 2.4 million water bodies has been prepared and released providing a comprehensive data base for ponds, lakes, tanks, reservoirs for the country to aid in water resource planning and conservation.

(d) The Ministry addresses the emerging challenges, as and when they arise, through continuous updation of existing schemes & policies, dialogues with stakeholders and adoption of new technologies.

(e) Water being a State subject, the Central Government supplements the efforts of the States and Union Territories (UTs) through technical and financial assistance. The States are an integral part of the whole effort of integrated water resource management. The Central Government provides support to them in coordination and collaboration with the respective State Governments depending upon various parameters. The Central Government provides financial support to States and UTs for undertaking water conservation efforts across the country through various schemes related to water resource management and also consults them to ensure their effective implementation.

Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) also play a significant role in water resource management. NGOs often work at the grassroots level, facilitating better communication and engagement with local communities, which is crucial for the success and sustainability of water conservation projects. In addition, integrated water management is a multi-stakeholder process. The Ministry of Jal Shakti and its organizations, therefore, work with a very large number of Non-Governmental Organizations and academic institutions to promote public awareness and for enhancing water resource management in the country. Details of such NGOs and institutions are available on the website of the Ministry. Through such partnerships, the Ministry of Jal Shakti aims to promote sustainable water management practices, increase public awareness about water conservation and implement effective solutions to address water scarcity and groundwater depletion.

International organizations such as the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, European Union, Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt (PTB), Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), Organization for Industrial, Spiritual and Cultural Advancement (OISCA), are associated with the Ministry in various capacities aimed at improving water resource management.

(f) The Government of India leverages digital technology to enhance transparency and accountability in the allocation and utilization of funds earmarked for various projects and schemes. The Public Financial Management System (PFMS) is an electronic platform developed to ensure efficient fund flow and tracking of expenditures for government schemes, aiming to enhance transparency, accountability and efficiency in public financial management.

Additionally, the General Financial Rules, 2017, established by the Ministry of Finance, are strictly adhered to for the sanction of expenditures. Utilization certificates are obtained to verify the accuracy and proper use of funds. Collectively, these measures contribute to a robust framework for managing public finances effectively.

In addition to above regular review and monitoring , independent audit, third party evaluation are also undertaken.
