

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 671

ANSWERED ON 25.07.2024

RAINWATER HARVESTING

671. SMT. KAMALJEET SEHRAWAT SHRI ANIL FIROJIYA
SMT. APARAJITA SARANGI SHRI DILIP SAIKIA
SHRI MANOJ TIWARI SMT. MALVIKA DEVI
SHRI RAVINDRA SHUKLA ALIAS RAVI KISHAN
SHRI BIDYUT BARAN MAHATO DR. NISHIKANT DUBEY
SHRI SHANKAR LALWANI SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB
SMT. POONAMBEN HEMATBHAI MAADAM
SHRI BALYA MAMA SURESH GOPINATH MHATRE
SHRI LUMBA RAM DR. HEMANT VISHNU SAVARA
SHRI VISHNU DAYAL RAM

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

- (a) the steps taken and the schemes introduced by the Government to increase the practice of rainwater harvesting in the country;
- (b) the details of the schemes introduced to manage the increasing water stress and unequal distribution of water in the country;
- (c) the steps taken by the Government to address the acute water scarcity and preparedness thereof in the NCT of Delhi and Palgarh district of Maharashtra along with the funds released during the last five years; and
- (d) the steps being taken to increase awareness amongst villages about rain water harvesting?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI RAJ BHUSHAN CHOUDHARY)

(a) & (b) Water is a State subject and the the efforts to manage the increasing water stress and unequal distribution of water in the country falls under the mandate of the State Government. Central Government supplements the efforts of the States/UTs through technical and financial support. Water conservation through rainwater harvesting is one of the foremost priorities of the Central Government. Major steps taken by the Government for water conservation and rainwater harvesting to reduce water stress in the country are as follows:

- i. Government of India has been implementing a scheme namely Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) which inter-alia includes water conservation and water harvesting structures.
- ii. Financial assistance is given to various States under 15th Finance Commission tied grants which can be inter-alia utilized for rainwater harvesting.
- iii. The Ministry of Jal Shakti has been implementing Jal Shakti Abhiyan (JSA) since 2019 on an annual basis. In the current year, Ministry of Jal Shakti is implementing Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain (JSA: CTR) 2024, 5th in the series of JSAs, in all the districts (rural as well as urban) of the country. JSA: CTR is a convergence of various Central Government schemes and funds like MGNREGS, Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT), Per Drop More Crop, Repair, Renovation and Restoration Components under the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY), Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA), Finance Commission grants, State Government schemes, Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funds etc. One of the major interventions undertaken under the campaign includes construction and repair of rainwater harvesting structures including rooftop and water harvesting structures.
- iv. Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) 2.0 has provisions for harvesting the rainwater through storm water drains into water body (which is not receiving sewage/effluent). Through preparation of 'Aquifer Management Plan' cities targets to strategize groundwater recharge augmentation by developing a roadmap for improving rain water harvesting within city limits. Through IEC campaign, awareness is created about practices for water conservation like rainwater harvesting.
- v. 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.
- vi. Government of India is implementing Atal Bhujal Yojana, in 8,213 water stressed Gram Panchayats (GPs) in 80 districts of 7 States, viz., Haryana, Gujarat, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh for a period of 5 years from 01.04.2020. The scheme marks a paradigm shift from groundwater development to groundwater management.
- vii. Government of India has been implementing "Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY)" 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. PMKSY has three components/ schemes namely Har Khet Ko

Pani (HKKP), Repair, Renovation & Restoration (RRR) Scheme of Water Bodies and Surface Minor irrigation (SMI) Scheme.

- viii. The Ministry of Jal Shakti has set up the Bureau of Water Use Efficiency (BWUE) under the National Water Mission on 20.10.2022, to act as a facilitator for promotion of improving water use efficiency across various sectors namely irrigation, drinking water supply, power generation, industries, etc. in the country.
- ix. 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.
- x. 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 including estimated cost. 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.
- xi. CGWB, under Ground Water Management & Regulation Scheme, has also implemented several successful artificial recharge projects in the country for demonstrative purpose which enables the State Governments to replicate the same in suitable hydro-geological conditions.
- xii. National Water Policy (2012) has been formulated by Department of Water Resources, RD & GR, which inter-alia advocates rainwater harvesting and conservation of water and also highlights the need for augmenting the availability of water through direct use of rainfall.
- xiii. Department of Land Resources (DoLR) implements Watershed Development Component of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (WDC-PMKSY) for the development of rainfed and degraded lands in the country. The activities undertaken, inter-alia, include rainwater harvesting.
- xiv. The activity of installing rainwater harvesting structures at the Gram Panchayat level has been included in the Panchayat Development Plan (PDP) for Panchayats to opt for the same as per their needs for execution from XV Finance Commission (FC) funds or any other available funds with them.
- xv. The objective of National Water Mission, Ministry of Jal Shakti is "conservation of water, minimizing wastage and ensuring its more equitable distribution both across and within States through integrated water resources development and management".

(c) Water is State subject and the efforts to effectively manage water sources and to address acute water scarcity falls in the mandate of the State Government. However, various steps have been taken by the Central Government to address water scarcity in the National Capital Territory (NCT) of Delhi and Palgarh district of Maharashtra. Government of India has been implementing a scheme namely Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) in rural areas of the country

(except Delhi & Chandigarh) which inter-alia includes public works relating to Natural Resource Management such as water conservation and water harvesting structures. Details of works carried out for water conservation and water harvesting under Mahatma Gandhi NREGS in the district of Palgarh, Maharashtra, over the last five financial years is at **Annexure I**.

State Government of Maharashtra has informed that in order to address the acute water scarcity and preparedness thereof in Palgarh district of Maharashtra, Soil and Water Conservation Department has been established by the State Government to look after Small Scale Irrigation and water conservation works/schemes. Till date 182 schemes having irrigation potential of 4688 hectare and water storage capacity of 9521 Thousand Million Cubic (TCM) have been completed in the Palgarh district. Further, 45 schemes are implemented in the district with irrigation potential of 1989 hectare and water storage capacity of 4723 TCM. The details of funds released for these schemes in last five years are at **Annexure II**. Apart from the above works/schemes, various other Central/State Government schemes have been implemented in Maharashtra such as Jalyukt Shivar Mission 2.0, Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayi Yojana, Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain campaign, Galmukta Dharan Galyukt Shivar (Desilting of dams) etc. to address the water scarcity in Maharashtra.

The Government of NCT of Delhi has adopted multi-pronged strategy to meet the increasing demand of water and to thereof address the water scarcity. This includes augmentation of ground water resources through aquifer recharge, infrastructural improvements such as augmenting the capacity of water treatment plants along with adopting measures to reduce the water losses in transmission, distribution and theft through installation of flow meters.

Further, Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) is periodically monitoring the ground water levels throughout the country including NCT of Delhi and Palgarh district of Maharashtra to monitor changes in water level and to assess long-time the long term fluctuation in ground water level. In Palgarh district, CGWB has 34 monitoring stations while in NCT of Delhi, CGWB has 135 monitoring stations. Public Investment Board (PIB) has also approved Project under Ground Water Management and Regulation Scheme (Central Sector Scheme) for construction of piezometers along with installation of Digital Water Level Recorders (DWLRs) with telemetry system.

(d) Following steps have been taken to increase awareness amongst villages about rainwater harvesting:

- i. Under Revamped Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA), States/UTs are encouraged for capacity building and training of Elected Representatives (ERs), Officials and other stakeholders of the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) in various subjects, including the Water Conservation and Rainwater Harvesting.
- ii. National Water Mission (NWM), Ministry of Jal Shakti tied up with Department of Youth Affairs to spread awareness to cover 31,150 villages in 623 districts on JSA: CTR campaign using the vast network of Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS) and its youth clubs. The awareness generation drive by NYKS, started in December 2020, formed the foundation of the

massive involvement of the people in the JSA: CTR campaign. Additionally, NWM has collaborated with concerned Ministries for broadcast of 'Just Junior' series on television, promotion of 'Mission LiFE', etc. NWM has also conducted 50 Water Talks, 40 Dialogues with Districts Magistrates and various other workshops/seminars to spread awareness among public. Ministry of Jal Shakti has collaborated with Ministry of Railways for vinyl wrapping of two of our nation's most iconic trains i.e. the Himsagar Express and the Kamakhya Express. These trains journey across our vast and diverse country carrying a vital message of water conservation, awareness and community engagement.

- iii. Central Ground Water Board organizes awareness programmes on local ground water issues, wherein the stakeholder including villagers are made aware of rain water harvesting techniques and conservation of water harvesting structures.
- iv. Also, the Information Education Communication activities are undertaken by the Ministry of Jal Shakti to disseminate the message of water conservation among the people. The social media team of the Department regularly creates informative posts regarding the water conservation and highlights the programmes/schemes of the Ministry on social media handles of the Department. Further, press release on important events of Ministry is also shared regularly with Press Information Bureau (PIB).

ANNEXURE-I

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (c) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 671 TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 25.07.2024 REGARDING “RAINWATER HARVESTING”.

Details of works carried out for water conservation and water harvesting under Mahatma Gandhi NREGS in the district of Palgarh, Maharashtra, over the last five financial years:					
Financial Year	2023-24	2022-23	2021-22	2020-21	2019-20
Number of works completed	442	728	460	446	193
Expenditure on water conservation & water harvesting (Rs. in lakh)	3,048.01	2,449.69	1,847.24	1,741.70	648.83

ANNEXURE-II

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (c) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 671 TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 25.07.2024 REGARDING “RAINWATER HARVESTING”.

Year	Funds released (Rs. in Lakhs)
2019-20	15.32
2020-21	3737.20
2021-22	1807.74
2022-23	826.01
2023-24	3562.69
