

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

**LOK SABHA**

**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 476**

ANSWERED ON 28.11.2024

**RAINWATER HARVESTING**

476. SMT. RACHNA BANERJEE

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

- (a) the details of the schemes introduced by the Government to increase the practice of rainwater harvesting in the country;
- (b) the steps taken/being taken to check the impact on water crisis; and
- (c) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to manage the increasing water crisis problem in the country?

**ANSWER**

**THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI**

(SHRI RAJ BHUSHAN CHOUDHARY)

(a) Water is a State subject and the efforts to increase the practice of rain water harvesting 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 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 15<sup>th</sup> 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, 5<sup>th</sup> 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 MGNRES, 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. To further strengthen the momentum of Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain Campaign, “Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari” (JSJB) initiative was launched in Surat on 6<sup>th</sup> September 2024. This campaign pledges for united action from all stakeholders, including government bodies, industries, local authorities, philanthropists, resident welfare associations (RWAs) and individuals for construction of artificial recharge structures/borewell recharge, among other activities, to increase the storage capacity & help augment groundwater recharge.

- 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 target 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. Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) has 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 rain 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 Structure in the country to harness 185 Billion Cubic Metre (BCM) of monsoon rainfall.
- vii. 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.
- viii. Department of Land Resources (DoLR) implements Watershed Development Component of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (WCD-PMKSY) for the development of rainfed and degraded lands in the country. The activities undertaken, inter-alia, include rainwater harvesting.
- ix. 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 Finance Commission (FC) funds or any other available funds with them.

(b) To monitor and evaluating the present progress of the Jal Shakti Abhiyan JSA:CTR on water crisis, JSA:CTR portal ([jsactr.mowr.gov.in](http://jsactr.mowr.gov.in)) has been developed through which the assessment of the campaign and its effectiveness is monitored. As far as JSJB initiative is concerned a separate dashboard under JSA:CTR portal has been developed for uploading data related to artificial recharge structures. Besides, Central teams consisting of Central Nodal Officers(CNO) and Technical Officers (TOs) are sent for field visit to the focus districts during the campaign for interaction with district/ state authorities on Jal Shakti Abhiyan, to monitor the efforts of the district/ state authorities towards water conservation and to provide support & assistance to the district/ state authorities. In addition, State Governments and stakeholders concerned are sensitized on regular basis to take steps to check the impact of water crisis.

(c) The government is making several efforts to manage the increase water crisis problem in the country such as focusing practice of rainwater harvesting, creating water storage capacity and recycling and reuse of water. National Water Policy (2012), inter-alia advocates rainwater harvesting, conservation and efficient utilization of water resources, conservation of rivers, river bodies in a scientifically planned manner through community participation. Ministry of Jal Shakti and its partner Ministries are implementing several programmes/ schemes aimed at resolving the issues relating to water scarcity. Some of these programmes/ schemes include Mahatama Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), Jal Shakti Abhiyan; Catch the Rain (JSA:CTR), Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY), Atal Bhujal Yojana (ABY), Command Area Development and Participatory Irrigation Management, Surface Minor Irrigation Schemes and Repair Renovation & Restoration of Water Bodies etc. Central Government in coordination with stakeholders concerned take appropriate steps from time to time in addressing the issues of water scarcity.

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