

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

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 480

ANSWERED ON 28.11.2024

**WATER CONSERVATION AND WATER HARVESTING IN JHARKHAND AND
RAJASTHAN**

†480. SHRI BIDYUT BARAN MAHATO SHRI LUMBA RAM

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

- (a) whether the Government proposes to formulate any special scheme or campaign for water conservation and water harvesting in Jharkhand and Rajasthan;
- (b) if so, the salient features thereof;
- (c) whether the Government is aware of depleting water table causing water crisis in Jharkhand and Rajasthan; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken/being taken by the Government for availability of water supply in the drought prone and water crisis areas of Jharkhand and Rajasthan?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI RAJ BHUSHAN CHOUDHARY)

(a) & (b) Water is a State subject and the efforts to promote water conservation and 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 water conservation and rainwater harvesting 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. Ministry of Jal Shakti has launched Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari (JSJB) initiative to further strengthen the momentum of Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain. The initiative aims to enhance water recharge through rainwater harvesting/aquifer recharge/borewell recharge/recharge shafts etc. with resource support from Government & non-Government resources like CSR funds, industrial houses, civic bodies, water sector enthusiasts etc. collectively working towards ensuring a water secure future.
- v. 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.
- vi. 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.
- vii. 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 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.
- viii. 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.
- ix. 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.

- x. 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.

(c) CGWB monitors groundwater levels throughout the country including the states of Jharkhand and Rajasthan, four times in every year during the months of March/April/May, August, November and January.

In order to assess the long term fluctuation in ground water level in the State of Jharkhand and Rajasthan, the water level data collected by CGWB in Jharkhand and Rajasthan during November 2023 has been compared with the decadal mean of November (2013-2022). Decadal Water Level Fluctuation with Mean (Post-Monsoon 2013 to 2022) and Post-monsoon 2023 in respect of Jharkhand and Rajasthan is **annexed**. Analysis of water level data in respect of Jharkhand indicates that about 45.65% of the wells monitored have registered rise in ground water levels, mostly in the range of 0.0 – 2.0 metre. Further, fall in groundwater levels have also been observed in 54.35% analysed wells which is mostly in the range of 0.0-2.0 metre.

Analysis of water level data in respect of Rajasthan indicates that about 33.60% of the wells monitored have registered rise in ground water levels, mostly in the range of 0.0–2.0 metre. Further, fall in groundwater levels have also been observed in 66.40% analysed wells which is mostly in the range of 0.0-2.0 metre.

(d) Water being a State subject, the aspects related to water resources including its conservation are studied, planned, funded and executed by the State Governments themselves as per their own resources and priorities. Government of India provides technical and financial support. However, the the major steps are taken by the government for the availability of water supply in the drought prone and water crisis areas of Jharkhand and Rajasthan are as follows:

- i. Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) has completed the National Aquifer Mapping (NAQUIM) Project in the entire mappable area of about 25 Lakh sq. km including the States of Jharkhand and Rajasthan. The Aquifer maps and management plans have been prepared and shared with the respective State agencies for implementation. The management plans include various water conservation measures through recharge structures.
- ii. 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 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 including 5.9 lakh structures in Jharkhand & 7.7 lakh structures in Rajasthan.

- iii. For ensuring tap water supply in drought-prone & water-scarce area/ areas with inadequate rainfall or dependable ground water sources, including those in the State of Jharkhand and Rajasthan, provisions have been made under JJM for planning and implementation of bulk water transfer from long distances and regional water supply schemes. In addition, provisions have been made for source recharging, viz. dedicated bore well recharge structures, rain water recharge, rejuvenation of existing water bodies, etc., in convergence with other schemes such as MGNREGS, Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP), 15th Finance Commission tied grants to RLBs/ PRIs, State schemes, CSR funds, etc.

In order to enhance recharge of aquifers, especially in arid and semi-arid areas, State Governments have been urged to strengthen/ extend existing canal networks and/ or build canals so as to transfer surplus flood waters from dams/ reservoirs to ponds/ lakes and other water bodies and also recharge groundwater during monsoon season. Further, for villages in water-scarce areas, in order to save the precious fresh water, States are encouraged to plan new water supply scheme with dual piped water supply system, i.e. supply of fresh water in one and treated grey/ waste water in another pipe for non-potable/ gardening/ toilet flushing use. Moreover, the households in these areas are encouraged to use the faucet aerators that save a significant amount of water, in multiple taps which can be used inside their house.

Further, water being a State subject, steps for augmentation, conservation and efficient management of water resources are primarily undertaken by the respective State Governments.

ANNEXURE

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (c) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 480 TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 28.11.2024 REGARDING “WATER CONSERVATION AND WATER HARVESTING IN JHARKHAND AND RAJASTHAN”.

State-wise Decadal Water Level Fluctuation with Mean (Post-Monsoon 2013 to 2022) and Post-Monsoon 2023																		
Sr. No.	State Name	No of wells analysed	No. of wells in different depth range												Total No. of wells		Total % of wells	
			Rise						Fall									
			0 to 2	%	2 to 4	%	> 4	%	0 to 2	%	2 to 4	%	> 4	%	Rise	Fall	Rise	Fall
1	Jharkhand	230	90	39.1	12	5.2	3	1.3	101	43.9	14	6.1	10	4.3	105	125	45.65	54.35
2	Rajasthan	753	146	19.4	69	9.2	38	5.0	223	29.6	121	16.1	156	20.7	253	500	33.60	66.40
