

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION

LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 529

ANSWERED ON 28.11.2024

'JAL SANCHAY JAN BHAGIDARI' INITIATIVE

529. SHRI RAJU BISTA

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

- (a) the details of the 'Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari' initiative aimed at promoting community driven water sustainability;
- (b) the main objective of this initiative and the manner in which it contributes to the overall water conservation efforts in the country;
- (c) the way in which the Government plans to integrate this initiative with existing programmes like the Jal Shakti Abhiyan, Atal Bhujal Yojana, and MGNREGS;
- (d) the details on the number of rainwater harvesting structures planned under this initiative along with their expected impact on water scarcity in Kalimpong, Uttar Dinajpur and Darjeeling districts; and
- (e) the manner in which the collaboration between the Ministry of Jal Shakti and the State Government's help in achieving sustainable water management practices across the country?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI RAJ BHUSHAN CHOUDHARY)

(a) & (b) The "Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari" (JSJB) initiative, launched in Surat on 6th September 2024, is part of the Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain (JSA: CTR) campaign. This initiative emphasizes the importance of Jan Bhagidari (community participation) in water conservation & embodies a pledge for united action from all stakeholders, including government bodies, industries, local authorities, philanthropists, resident welfare associations (RWAs) and individuals with the aim to have a special focus on the construction of artificial recharge structures/borewell recharge shafts among other activities, to increase storage capacity & help augment groundwater recharge.

The key objective of the Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari initiative is to ensure that every drop of water is conserved through collective efforts, following a whole-of-society and whole-of-government approach. By promoting community ownership and responsibility, the initiative seeks to develop cost-effective, local solutions tailored to specific water challenges across different regions.

(c) JSJB initiative has been launched as a part of JSA: CTR campaign with a special emphasis on construction of artificial recharge structures across the country. The Government has adopted a convergent approach for implementing this initiative, leveraging resources from both Government

schemes such as Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT), Per Drop More Crop, Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY), Compensatory Afforestation Fund (CAMPA), Finance Commission grants, etc and private funding like CSR contributions, individual donations etc. This convergent funding ensures synergy and maximizes impact.

(d) The central goal of the initiative is the construction of at least 1 million artificial recharge structures with special focus on construction of borewell recharge structures to enhance groundwater levels and support sustainable water management practices throughout the country including Kalimpong, Uttar Dinajpur, and Darjeeling districts. The recharge structures enhance the availability of groundwater, particularly during dry spells, supporting agriculture, drinking water supply thereby addressing water scarcity. Moreover, the implementation of these structures contributes to long-term climate resilience by fostering sustainable groundwater management, reducing vulnerability to droughts and ensuring equitable access to water resources across diverse user groups.

(e) As water is a State subject, the collaboration between the Ministry of Jal Shakti and State Governments is pivotal for sustainable water management. The Ministry of Jal Shakti provides technical and financial support, along with best practices for replication. The JSJB initiative, inspired by Gujarat's Jal Sanchay model, exemplifies this partnership by encouraging States and UTs to adopt similar measures, thereby strengthening national efforts in water conservation.
