

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

LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO. *287

ANSWERED ON 20.03.2025

CONSTRUCTION OF STOP DAMS ON VINDHYACHAL HILLS

†*287. SHRI DARSHAN SINGH CHOUDHARY

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

- (a) whether the Government has any plan to construct small stop dams on the Vindhyachal hills in Hoshangabad Lok Sabha Constituency;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) the specific recommendations made by the experts for water conservation?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI C R PAATIL)

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

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF STARRED QUESTION NO. *287 TO BE ANSWERED ON 20.03.2025 IN LOK SABHA REGARDING “CONSTRUCTION OF STOP DAMS ON VINDHYACHAL HILLS”

(a) & (b) As informed by the State Government of Madhya Pradesh, two projects are being implemented in Hoshangabad district under Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana – Watershed Development 2.0. Under these projects, water conservation works such as contour trench, gabion, recharge shaft, farm pond, pond, tree plantation and Amrit Sarovar have been taken up in Gram Panchayat Dandiwada, Silwani, Chartekra, Kalaakhar and Bhargada.

(c) Water being a State subject, the aspects related to water resources are studied, planned, funded and executed by the State Governments themselves as per their own resources and priorities. Role of Government of India is limited to being catalytic, providing technical support and, in some cases partial financial assistance in terms with the existing schemes being implemented by the Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation.

The Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) has launched the National Aquifer Mapping and Management Programme (NAQUIM) under the Ground Water Management and Regulation (GWMR) scheme, covering the entire country, including the Hoshangabad Lok Sabha constituency. The program has provided block-wise aquifer maps, management plans, and detailed reports to the State Government and District Administration. Key recommendations under NAQUIM for water conservation include the construction of recharge structures such as percolation tanks, recharge shafts, check dams, nala bunds, and concrete plugs. The plan also suggests increasing cropping intensity using available groundwater resources and shifting irrigation practices to micro-irrigation technologies like drip and sprinkler systems for rabi crops. Additionally, the Master Plan for Artificial Recharge to Groundwater-2020 proposes 929 percolation tanks, 7923 check dams, 8073 nala bunds/cement plugs, and 907 village ponds in the Hoshangabad constituency. This Master Plan, which includes cost estimates, has been shared with State Government agencies for planning and implementation.

Further, the yearly campaign "Jal Shakti Abhiyan (JSA)" was launched in 2019 to promote water conservation through community involvement, but it was paused in 2020 due to the pandemic. In 2021, the "Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain" (JSA: CTR) campaign was launched, with the theme “Catch the Rain – Where it Falls, When it Falls,” and has become an annual event since. In 2024, the campaign expanded to all rural and urban areas across India, focusing on rainwater harvesting, groundwater recharge, and the rejuvenation of traditional water bodies. Over 1.7 crore water conservation works have been completed from 2019 to 2024, including the creation of check dams, rooftop rainwater harvesting, and de-silting tanks. Additionally, 705 Jal Shakti Kendras were established, and 620 District Scientific Water Conservation Plans were created.

To further enhance community action, the Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari (JSJB) initiative was launched in September 2024. This initiative focuses on constructing low-cost artificial recharge structures, like rooftop rainwater harvesting systems, and recharging defunct bore wells. It promotes innovative financing models involving CSR and community philanthropic partnerships. The goal is to conserve water through collective efforts and build 1 million artificial recharge structures by May 2025, improving groundwater levels and promoting sustainable water management.
