

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF LAND RESOURCES

LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO-276
TO BE ANSWERED ON 04.08.2016

Water Conservation Programmes

*276. SHRI SADASHIV LOKHANDE:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has formulated schemes for water conservation and water harvesting in the villages and if so, the details in this regard particularly of the Shirdi and other backward regions of the State of Maharashtra; and

(b) whether the Government also proposes to develop new technique for water harvesting for agriculture purpose, and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
(SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR)

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

Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) and (b) of the Lok Sabha Starred Question No 276 due for reply on 04.08.2016

- (a) Under the Watershed Development Component of the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayi Yojana (WDC-PMKSY) and the Mahatma Gandhi National Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS) funds are released to the States which *inter alia* are used for water conservation and water harvesting works. The Department of Land Resources, Ministry of Rural Development had been implementing an area development programme i.e. Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP) w.e.f. 26.02.2009 for development of rainfed / degraded areas in all the States of the country (except Goa) including Maharashtra. The objectives of the IWMP programme are conservation of water, improving agriculture productivity and livelihood creation. The major activities taken up under the programme *inter alia* include ridge area treatment, drainage line treatment, soil and moisture conservation, rain water harvesting, nursery raising, afforestation, horticulture, pasture development, livelihoods for assetless persons. From the year 2015-16, the IWMP programme has been amalgamated as the WDC-PMKSY. As on 30.06.2016, a total of 8214 projects under WDC-PMKSY have been sanctioned in the country, covering an area of 39.07 million ha and an amount of Rs. 12821.66 Cr. has been released as central assistance to various States including Maharashtra. In the State of Maharashtra, 1186 projects covering an area of 5.128 million ha with a total cost of 6517.49 Cr have been sanctioned under WDC-PMKSY and an amount of Rs. 1784.46 Cr. has been released upto 30.06.2016. As per the information received from Maharashtra State, 6148 water harvesting structures have been created/ renovated in the year 2014-15 and 2015-16 under the WDC-PMKSY. Further 16913 works pertaining to water harvesting have been completed/ are under implementation under the Jalyukt Shivar Abhiyan Programme of the State Government. In Ahmednagar district of the State, of which Shirdi Parliamentary Constituency is a part, 37 projects covering an area of 157384 hectares with a total cost of Rs. 18885.4 lakh have been sanctioned under the programme.

Further, in the current financial year 2016-17, 91337 water conservation works are completed/ ongoing under MGNREGS in the State of Maharashtra out of which 6627 works are completed/ ongoing in the district of Ahmednagar.

- (b) Under the Technology Development, Extension and Training scheme (TDET) of the Department of Land Resources there is a provision for taking up projects for disseminating research findings about strong technology inputs and application of such technologies for promoting watershed development including development of new techniques for water harvesting for agricultural purposes. The Department has also signed a technical assistance project with the World Bank, named 'Neeranchal' National Watershed Project to support various components of the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) in general and its Watershed Development Component (WDC) in particular, with the objective to improve incremental conservation outcomes and agricultural yields in a sustainable manner for farming communities. The Project envisages its implementation from 2016-17 to 2021-22 by the Department of Land Resources in partnership with 9 States including Maharashtra. Under Neeranchal, there is a provision for adoption of innovations around Decision Support System (DSS) for hydrology and watershed management including new techniques for water harvesting for agricultural purposes.

Further, as per the information received from the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, water harvesting, water conservation and management activities including efficient on-farm conveyance and application systems like micro irrigation are promoted under Per Drop More Crop component of the PMKSY to supplement activities taken up under watershed projects and MGNREGA for comprehensive/integrated development of the targeted areas.