

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5229
ANSWERED ON:29.04.2002
DESILTING OF AYA-CUT TANKS
E. PONNUSWAMY

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to desilt Aya-cut Tanks on which huge tracts of agricultural lands are depending for irrigation;
- (b) if so, the details of such scheme in coordination with State Governments concerned;
- (c) if not, whether the Government propose to help the farmers on this count; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SMT. BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY)

(a) to (d) Irrigation being a State subject, all Minor Irrigation Projects including Tanks, are planned, funded and executed by the State Governments themselves from their own plan funds as per their own priority.

However Ministry of Rural Development has formulated a one time programme for restoration of traditional sources of water harvesting by desiltation of ponds/tanks at village level during 2002-03.

The programme will be implemented in a campaign mode and atleast one existing village pond/tank or any other village level water harvesting structure will be restored in the villages where no such activity has been taken up under any scheme of the State or Centre.

The funds for the programme will be pooled from the existing funds released for Watershed development programmes namely Drought Prone Area Programme, Desert Development Programme, Integrated Wasteland Development Programme including Employment Assurance Scheme component, Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme and Pradhan Mantri gram Yojna (Drinking Water Supply Component).