

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:937

ANSWERED ON:01.03.2000

WATER MANAGEMENT

A. VENKATESH NAIK; BHUWAN CHANDRA AVSM (RETD.) KHANDURI

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to launch any action plan to harness the immense rain-water potential in the country, State-wise, particularly in the hilly area of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, details thereof; and

(c) if not, the other alternative arrangement made by the Union Government for harvesting rain water to solve the irrigation and drinking water problems of the people of the hilly area of Uttar Pradesh ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR WATER RESOURCES (SMT. BJOYA CHAKRAVARTY)

(a) to (c) At present there is no proposal before the Government to launch any separate action plan to harness rain-water potential, particularly in the hilly areas. However, Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) in association with the State Governments have taken up a Central Sector Scheme on Artificial Recharge to ground water through the construction of recharge structures on an experimental basis in the States of Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab, Haryana, Delhi, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, etc. The scheme has been extended to cover water scarcity areas in other States also. Besides, Ministry of Agriculture operates a Centrally Sponsored Scheme namely, National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPR) for treating both arable/non-arable lands and natural drainage lines in the rainfed areas for in-situ moisture conservation associated with diversified farming systems for improving production and productivity. The project inter-alia also provides for a suitable institutional framework for promoting people's participation, help of such watershed village based institutions as Mitra Krishak Mandals, Self-help Thrift Groups, etc. and involvement of NGOs, Panchayats and other rural institutions.