

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:478

ANSWERED ON:26.07.2000

RAIN WATER HARVESTING

MOHAN RAWALE;UTTAMRAO DEORAO PATIL;Y.S. VIVEKANANDA REDDY

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a two day national seminar on rain water harvesting was held recently;
- (b) if so, the main points suggested by the Prime Minister in the seminar;
- (c) the action taken thereon; and
- (d) the steps being taken by the Government for proper management of available water resources and to overcome ensuing water crisis?

Answer

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

- (a) Yes, Sir. A two days national seminar on Rain Water Harvesting was held on 22nd and 23rd May, 2000 at New Delhi.
- (b) The Prime Minister stressed the need to conserve and store water and to devise an effective policy for scientific and equitable harnessing of ground water. He also invited a nationwide debate on this issue to evolve proper policies and practices.
- (c) The action taken in respect of the suggestions made by the Prime Minister in the seminar include implementation of a Central Sector Scheme for Artificial Recharge of Ground Water at an estimated cost of Rs.25.00 crore during the IX Plan period. The scheme is implemented in the states of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Maharashtra, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, and NCT of Delhi. The Government has also taken initiative to promote rain water harvesting and making roof top rain water harvesting mandatory in buildings in the urban areas. With a view to ensure scientific and equitable harnessing of ground water and to check its over-exploitation, the Government have constituted a Central Ground Water Authority which is empowered to notify areas. It also registers ground water extraction structures. As regards evolving proper policies and practices through a nation wide debate on the issue, this is a continuous process, which is going on.
- (d) As regards the steps taken by the Government for proper management of available water resources and to overcome ensuing water crisis, the Union Government has taken various policy and programme initiatives for the optimum utilization of available water resources in the country. These include adoption of National Water Policy (1987), Command Area Development Programme, Preparation of National Perspective Plan for transfer of water from surplus basins to water deficit areas, water management practices promoting efficient and economic use of water for various purposes, emphasis on water conservation through various methods including use of latest technologies and peoples participation in management of water for diverse use, setting up of National Commission for Integrated Water Resources Development Plan in September, 1996 as well as launching of Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme since 1996-97 for expeditious completion of selected ongoing major and medium irrigation and multi-purpose projects. Government is also promoting rain water harvesting and watershed management to replenish ground water.