

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4097

ANSWERED ON:21.03.2013

PRESERVATION OF WATER BODIES

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Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any urgent need for all States to chalk out a synchronized plan to preserve existing water bodies;
- (b) if so, the role to be played by the Union Government particularly in Maharashtra;
- (c) whether the State Governments have faced paucity of funds and resources which hinders the conservation of existing water resources; and
- (d) if so, the steps taken by the Union Government to allocate sufficient funds to develop existing water resources?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI HARISH RAWAT)

(a) According to 3rd Minor Irrigation Census conducted by MoWR with reference year 2000-2001, the number of water bodies identified in the country is 5.56 lakh. The total number of water bodies not in use is 85807. There is loss of irrigation potential due to number of reasons such as shifting away from community based tank system to individual beneficiary oriented ground water dependent system, encroachments, silting, population pressure, multiplicity of agencies responsible for their upkeep, etc. As such there is an urgent need to preserve water bodies all over India.

(b) During X Plan, a Pilot Scheme for "Repair, Renovation & Restoration (RRR) of water bodies directly linked to Agriculture" was launched by Government of India. The Pilot Scheme envisaged a plan outlay of Rs. 300 crore to be shared by the centre and state in the ratio of 3:1.

The centre share of Rs. 197.30 crore has been released to the states under this scheme for taking up 1098 water bodies in 26 districts of 15 states. This includes 32 water bodies in Beed district of Maharashtra.

The works on 31 water bodies of Maharashtra were completed and 1 water body was dropped .

During XI Plan, the Government had approved a State Sector Scheme for Repair, Renovation and Restoration of Water bodies with two components (i) one with domestic support with an outlay of Rs. 1250 crore and (ii) another with external assistance with an outlay of Rs. 1500 crore. Under the scheme with domestic support, 3341 water bodies including 258 water bodies of Maharashtra have been taken up out of which works have been completed in 1736 water bodies. No work has been completed in any water body of Maharashtra under RRR.

Under the scheme with external support, 10887 water bodies have been taken up for restoration in four states (Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Karnataka and Tamil Nadu) out of which works have been completed in 4244 water bodies. No water bodies of Maharashtra were taken up under the scheme of external assistance.

(c) During XI Plan, funds could not be provided for proposals covering during 17,000 water bodies due to State-wise ceiling fixed by the Planning Commission under the scheme of RRR. Therefore, the target will be to cover all water bodies which require restoration / renovation in phases so as to optimize their role in water conservation.

(d) The scheme for implementation of RRR of Water Bodies in XII Plan is under finalization. It is envisaged to cover 10,000 water bodies all over the country to restore about 6.235 lakh hectare during XII Plan. Planning Commission has kept an outlay of Rs. 6235 crore for the XII Plan under the scheme.