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title: Need to take steps to promote water conservation and rain water harvesting in the country.

SHRIMATI HEMAMALINI (MATHURA): Madam Speaker, thank you so much for giving me the time.

I am going to talk on something which is the need of the hour, the importance of water conservation and rain water harvest in India and the fast dwindling sources of fresh water because of injudicious destruction of lakes, ponds and even big rivers. We hear of the mighty Ganges being systematically destroyed and the glaciers melting in Gangotri. The Yamuna is also far-gone.

Indiscriminate digging of bore wells must also be stopped. Our country is facing perennial problems, like drought or excessive floods, which are hindering our economic progress and it is time we do something to combat this.

Our great visionary and statesman Atal ji has spoken at length of the solution to this major problem, that is linking all the rivers so that there is availability of water throughout the year. Why can we not do a pilot project and check the feasibility of this idea?

As I am also doing in Mathura, clean and dredge all the ponds and other water bodies before the monsoon so that rain water can be saved and made use of. Private companies could use their CSR funds to get ponds cleaned and MNREGA could also be used to clean and dredge village ponds throughout the country. ...(*Interruptions*) As we say electricity saved is electricity produced, similarly water conserved is more water made available for others. Water needs to be used judiciously by agriculture; and just like soil health cards, water cards could also be issued to the farmers recommending how much water is needed for each crop. Thank you.

माननीय अध्यक्ष :

श्री भैरों प्रसाद मिश्र,

कुँवर पुष्पेन्द्र सिंह चन्देल और

डॉ. मनोज राजौरिया को श्रीमती हेमामालिनी द्वारा उठाए गए विषय के साथ संबद्ध करने की अनुमति प्रदान की जाती है।