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Title: Need to restore old wells and water tanks for conservation of water.

SHRI B. SRIRAMULU (BELLARY): Till 1970, there were open wells in every village and people used to draw water from these open wells. After the advent of bore wells and drinking water supply through taps (piped water supply), use of open wells gradually came down. There were open wells in almost every chawl (group of houses within a compound).

On an average, there will be 1500 to 2000 wells in each district (almost one Lok Sabha constituency). Some people closed their wells. If these wells are restored (be it in private or in public place) this would provide additional water source to people besides increasing water table. Subsidies could be given to people to restore their wells under 'Save mother nature by protecting water source' project.

In yester years, irrigation tanks were located at the entrance of every village/town and city. Our rulers/ancestors planned tanks in such a way that during rainy season water from one tank after it was filled up would flow into another tank in the town and thus, entire town was getting cool breeze and water table was also increased. But, gradually, tanks were closed for making housing colonies. Be it Bangaluru or Bellari, several tanks were closed for making housing colonies. In most of the cities, Road Transport Corporations constructed Bus Stands where once tanks were located.

If tanks are restored and protective walls are put, we will be saving Mother Nature for the future. This could be taken up as a national project.