

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI,
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5309
ANSWERED ON 25.07.2019

RAINWATER CONSERVATION IN RAJASTHAN

5309. SHRI BALAK NATH

Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps taken by the Government for conservation of rain water in the country particularly in Rajasthan;
- (b) whether the Government has undertaken any work/project for desilting of check dams to rejuvenate its capacity for conservation of rain water;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the success achieved therein; and
- (d) the steps taken to overcome the hurdles posed by the mining and environment ministries along with the success achieved therein?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI & SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

(SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA)

(a) to (d) Hon'ble Prime Minister has written a letter to all Sarpanchs on 08.06.2019 regarding the importance of water conservation and rain harvesting and exhorted them to adopt all appropriate measures to make water conservation a mass movement.

The issue of sustainable water management was also discussed with the concerned Ministers and officials of the State Governments by Minister, Jal Shakti in a meeting held on 11.6.2019.

An 'Inter Ministerial Committee' under the Chairmanship of Secretary (WR, RD & GR) has been constituted to take forward the subject of 'Water Conservation Related Activities for Optimum Utilization of Monsoon Rainfall' which meets from time to time to discuss the issue of water conservation. The Committee includes officers from different States/UTs. Last meeting of the Inter-Ministerial Committee was held on 01/05/2019.

Cabinet Secretary also discussed the issue of water management with the Chief Secretaries of the States through video-conference on 21.05.2019.

Government of India has launched the Jal Shakti Abhiyan which is a time bound campaign with a mission mode approach intended to improve water availability including ground water conditions in the water stressed blocks of 256 districts in India, including 29 in Rajasthan. In this regard, team of officers from Central Government along-with technical officers from Ministry of Jal Shakti have been deputed to visit water stressed districts and to work in close collaboration with district level officials to undertake suitable demand side and supply side interventions.

Water being a State subject, initiatives on water management including conservation and artificial recharge to ground water in the Country is primarily States' responsibility. The initiatives in this regard is available at the following URL:

http://mowr.gov.in/sites/default/files/Steps_to_control_water_depletion_Jun2019.pdf

As per information received from Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs, the Model Building Bye Laws, 2016, has been issued for guidance of the States/UTs which has a chapter on 'Rainwater Harvesting'. The provisions of this chapter are applicable to all the buildings. 33 States / UTs, including Rajasthan, have adopted the rainwater harvesting provisions. The implementation of the rainwater harvesting policy comes within the purview of the State Government/Urban Local Body / Urban Development Authority.

Central Government supports construction of water harvesting and conservation works primarily through Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana – Watershed Development Component (PMKSY-WDC) and PMKSY-Per Drop More Crop. Under these Schemes, 17,56,207 water conservation and recharging structures have been constructed at an expenditure of Rs.23,435.67 crore in the last three years. In Rajasthan, 93,689 structures have been constructed under these Schemes at an expenditure of Rs.1972.93 crore.

In addition, total Central Assistance amounting to Rs.369.11 crore has been released to the States upto March, 2019 under the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) – Har Khet ko Pani- Repair, Renovation and Restoration (RRR) of Water Bodies Scheme.

'Mukhya Mantri Jal Swavlamban Abhiyaan (MJSA)' was launched by Rajasthan Government with a view to converge various schemes and to bring them on a single platform to conserve water. Ministry of Environment, Forests & Climate Change (MoEF & CC) has sanctioned grant of INR.24,97,75,000.00 from National Adaptation Fund for Climate change on 25.09.2017 for this project.