

Restoration of water bodies in rural areas

1649. DR. PRABHAKAR KORE: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that water conservationists have sounded an alarm about the vanishing water bodies in rural areas of the country due to encroachment or grabbing of water body for other uses even by Government authorities;

(b) whether Government, in consultation with State Governments, has taken steps to restore water bodies in rural areas; and

(c) if so, the details of steps taken and the number of water bodies restored, so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN):

(a) to (c) Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation (MoWR, RD & GR) conducts all India Census of Minor Irrigation Structures. As per the 4th Minor Irrigation Census, 18485 water bodies in the rural area were permanently not - in-use for minor irrigation. Reasons given by states for water bodies not in use are encroachments, urbanisation, siltation, non-availability of water etc.

Works related to water resources development & management are planned, funded, executed and maintained by the State Governments themselves as per their own resources and priorities. In order to supplement the efforts of the State Governments, Government of India provides technical and financial assistance to State Governments to encourage sustainable development and efficient management of water resources through various schemes and programmes.

A pilot scheme for "Repair, Renovation and Restoration (RRR) of Water Bodies directly linked to Agriculture" was launched in January 2005 for implementation during the remaining period of Xth Plan.

Further, the Ministry of Water Resources launched a State Sector Scheme for Repair, Renovation & Restoration (RRR) of water bodies for implementation during XI Plan. The scheme of RRR of Water Bodies has been continued in XII Plan also.

Since X Plan, under RRR of Water Bodies scheme, total 11865 water bodies have been restored.