

and improving water use efficiency 'More crop per drop' in a focused manner. with end to end solution on source creation, distribution, management, field application and extension activities.

The Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation has suggested all States to adopt water conservation measures like roof top rainwater harvesting, erecting sustainability structures for water conservation etc. For creating such sustainability structures, 10% of National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) funds are provided to the States.

Department of Land Resources is currently implementing 8214 watershed development projects in 28 States covering an area of about 39.07 million ha. under the Watershed Development Component (WDC) of the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) principally for development of rainfed portions of net cultivated area and culturable wastelands. 432, 270 and 330 projects have been taken up in Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Telangana respectively.

Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) has issued advisories to States and UTs to take measures to promote/adopt artificial recharge to ground water/rain water harvesting. 30 States/UTs, including Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Telangana have made rain water harvesting mandatory by enacting laws or by formulating rules and regulations or by including provisions in building bye-laws or through suitable Government Orders.

This Ministry has circulated a Model Bill to all the States/UTs to enable them to enact suitable ground water legislation for its regulation and development which includes provision of rain water harvesting. So far, 15 States/UTs including Andhra Pradesh and Telangana have adopted and implemented the ground water legislation on the lines of Model bill.

Allocation of funds for schemes in Rajasthan

3026. SHRI HARSHVARDHAN SINGH DUNGARPUR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had received any proposal from Public Health Engineering and Ground Water Department, Rajasthan Government in February, 2015 for approval and allocation of funds for Study for rejuvenation of Sarasvati Palaeo drainage and exploration of ground water resources in Western Rajasthan;

(b) if so, what action has been taken thereon; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): (a) Yes, Sir. A proposal from Public Health Engineering and Ground Water Department (PHE&GWD), Rajasthan was received in this Ministry to take up study for Rejuvenation of Palaeochannel Network and Exploration of Ground Water Resources in North-Western Rajasthan along a stretch of 542.36 Kms. of Palaeochannel in parts of Hanumangarh, Ganganagar, Bikaner, Jaisalmer, Jodhpur and Barmer Districts of Western Rajasthan.

(b) This Ministry has informed Government of Rajasthan that Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), an apex body under this Ministry had initiated various studies on the Palaeochannels under the programme of aquifer mapping. Further, it was informed that study on Paleochannel in North-Western Rajasthan by State of Rajasthan would lead to duplication of work. PHE & GWD, Rajasthan was requested to coordinate with and extend support to CGWB in their study on Paleochannels in Rajasthan under aquifer mapping programme.

This Ministry constituted an Expert Committee in March, 2016 under the Chairmanship of Prof. K. S. Valdiya, to review available information on Palaeochannels. The Expert Committee based on Remote Sensing, Geological, Hydrogeological and Archaeological evidence has concluded that a large Himalayan born river flowed through the wide channel of Ghaggar-Hakara-Nara from Himalayas to Rann of Kachh. The Committee has suggested several recommendations, which include:

- (i) Establishing data bank for compiling of scientific information on Palaeochannels.
 - (ii) Delineation of sub-surface aquifer disposition of identified Palaeochannels and assessment of ground water potential and feasibility of artificial recharge in those Palaeochannels.
 - (iii) Establishing some prominent archaeological sites along the Palaeochannels as heritage centres for academic/research activities.
- (c) Does not arise.

Status of implementation of PMKSY

3027. SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

- (a) the status of implementation of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY);
- (b) the number of States who have submitted their district and State level action plans; and