

PROTECTION OF SMALL WATER BODIES

†1431. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any plan to protect small water bodies like wells and different types of ponds, etc.; and

(b) whether Government will formulate a concrete plan to conserve and rejuvenate conventional water bodies in order to arrest fast depletion of groundwater in rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION (SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL): (a) and (b) Works related to water resources development and 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 such as Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) and scheme for Repair, Renovation and Restoration (RRR) of Water Bodies under Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY).

The Repair, Renovation and Restoration (RRR) of Water Bodies Scheme has multiple objectives like comprehensive improvement and restoration of water bodies thereby increasing the tank storage capacity, Ground Water Recharge, increased availability of drinking water, etc.

XII Plan onwards, 1876 water bodies costing Rs.1529.79 crore from 9 States have been funded under this scheme and Central Assistance of Rs.344.315 crore has been released. Out of these 1876 water bodies, works in 580 water bodies have been reported to be completed.

Scarcity of groundwater

1432. DR. SANJAY SINH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 'Water thirst' demand of the country will grow by 1180 bcm from present output of 1137 bcm by 2030;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.