

Action plan for ground water conservation

†3256. MS. SAROJ PANDEY : Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

(a) the details of new steps proposed to be taken for rain water harvesting by the Ministry, after Prime Minister expressed his concern over 8 per cent of rain water being harvested in our country during the recent 'Mann Ki Baat' programme;

(b) whether Government has formulated any comprehensive action plan for ground water, identifying it as 'Jalamrit' and conservation of reservoirs in order to deal with the current water crisis;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI (SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA): (a) to (c) 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.

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. 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.

Further, 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 important measures taken by the Central Government for conservation, management of ground water and effective implementation of rain water harvesting in the country are at the following URL: http://mowr.gov.in/sites/default/files/Steps_to_control_water_depletion_Jun2019.pdf

(d) In view of reply to parts (a) to (c) above, the question does not arise.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.