

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI,
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2334
ANSWERED ON 09.08.2021

DEMAND OF CLEAN AND POTABLE WATER

2334 SHRI SANJAY SETH
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Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the demand of clean and potable water is increasing day-by-day due to ever increasing population in the country;
- (b) if so, the amount of clean and potable water required by each State, State-wise;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that there is an urgent need to install rain water harvesting structures in the country; and
- (d) if so, details of steps taken by Government to start awareness among rural masses about water conservation techniques and its implementation?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI & FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES

(SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL)

(a) & (b) The average annual water availability of any region or country is largely dependent upon hydro-meteorological and geological factors. However, water availability per person is dependent on population of the country and for India, per capita water availability in the country is reducing due to increase in population. Also due to high temporal and spatial variation of precipitation, the water availability in many regions of the country is much below the national average and this may result in water stress / scarce conditions.

National Commission on Integrated Water Resource Development (NCIWRD) in 1999 assessed the water demand for domestic purpose for whole country for the years 2025 and 2050 as 62 BCM and 111 BCM respectively.

(c) & (d) Water being a State subject, steps for augmentation, conservation and efficient management of water resources are primarily undertaken by the respective State Governments. In order to supplement the efforts of the State Governments, Central Government provides technical and financial assistance to them through various schemes and programmes.

Government of India launched Jal Shakti Abhiyan-I (JSA-I) in 256 water stressed districts of the country in two phases between July to November, 2019. Under the Jal Shakti Abhiyan, officers, groundwater experts and scientists from the Government of India have worked with State and district

officials, Panchayati Raj Institutions, civil society, local community in these districts to promote water conservation and water resource management by focusing on accelerated implementation of five target interventions, viz., water conservation & rainwater harvesting, renovation of traditional and other water bodies/ tanks, reuse and recharge of bore wells, watershed development and intensive afforestation.

The Hon'ble Prime Minister of India launched the "Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain" (JSA:CTR) on 22nd March, 2021, the World Water Day, with the theme "Catch the Rain - Where it Falls When it Falls" to cover all the blocks of all districts (rural as well as urban areas) across the country during 22nd March, 2021 to 30th November, 2021 - the pre-monsoon and monsoon period. The focused interventions for JSA includes water conservation & rainwater harvesting, renovation of traditional and other water bodies/tanks, reuse and recharge of bore wells, watershed development and intensive afforestation.

National Water Mission, in a bid to draw attention to critical aspects of water, and to promote dialogue and information sharing among participants on variety of water related topics, has initiated a monthly seminar series - "Water Talk" on 22nd March, 2019, the World Water Day. The "Water Talk" is intended to create awareness, build capacities of stakeholders and to encourage people to become active participants in the conservation and saving of water. The "Water Talk" provides a platform wherein, among other Water Talkers (which include academicians, bureaucrats, activists, water experts), Sarpanchs and representatives of NGOs also participate and showcase the best practices in water sector in villages and cities / towns across the country.

National Water Mission had started a campaign "*Sahi Fasal*" to nudge farmers to favor agricultural crops which consume less water and to use water more efficiently in agriculture, as a part of demand side management.

Department of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation has instituted National Water Awards and "Water Heroes – Share your stories" contest to incentivize good practices in water conservation and ground water recharge.

Department of Land Resources is providing Central Assistance (CA) for watershed development projects sanctioned between 2009-10 and 2014-15 under the erstwhile Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP), later amalgamated as the Watershed Development Component of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana in 2015-16, in 28 States (except Goa) (now 27 States and UTs of J & K and Ladakh). The activities undertaken inter alia include ridge area treatment, drainage line treatment, soil and moisture conservation, rainwater harvesting, nursery raising, afforestation, horticulture, pasture development, livelihoods for asset less persons, etc. The project period of the scheme got over on 31st March, 2021 and extended up to 30th September, 2021 to complete balance ongoing projects. As per

information received from States, during 2014-15 to 1st Qtr of 2021-22 (April to June), a total of 7.52 lakh water harvesting structures have been created / rejuvenated. Department of Land Resources has also issued advisories to States/UTs for intensive water conservation activities in all these project areas keeping ensuing summer season & monsoon season in view.

Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) has prepared a Master Plan for Artificial Recharge to Groundwater- 2020 in consultation with States/UTs, which is a macro level plan indicating various structures for different terrain conditions of the country including estimated cost. The Master Plan envisages construction of about 1.42 crore rain water harvesting and artificial recharge structures in the Country to harness 185 Billion Cubic Metre (BCM) of monsoon rainfall. DPR has to be prepared by the concerned line department at an implementable level like any other water supply project or city development project. Implementation has been proposed to be through existing schemes only and no separate scheme/fund has been envisaged for implementation.

Central Ground Water Board, as part of the National Aquifer Mapping and Management (NAQUIM) Programme, has been organizing public interaction programs at grass root level for disseminating the tenets of the Aquifer Management Plans for the benefit of the stakeholders. So far, 745 such Programs have been conducted in different parts of the country in which nearly 64,000 people have been sensitized on various aspects of water conservation and ground water management.

Best practices of water conservation by various entities including private persons, NGOs, PSUs etc have been compiled and put on the web site of the Ministry for the benefit of general public. An interactive link on best practices has also been created for receiving inputs from public, which, after necessary evaluation/validation are put on the website for the benefit of the public.

Mass awareness programmes (Trainings, Seminars, Workshops, Exhibitions, Trade Fares and Painting Competitions etc.) are conducted from time to time each year under the information, Education & Communication (IEC) Scheme of Department of Water Resources , River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation in various parts of the Country to promote rain water harvesting and artificial recharge to ground water.

Atal Bhujal Yojana, a Central Sector Scheme, with focus on community participation, demand side interventions and convergence of ongoing schemes for sustainable ground water management is being implemented from 1st April 2020 in seven States – Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh.

Fifteenth Finance Commission (FFC) in its report for 2021-26, has earmarked 60 per cent for national priorities like drinking water supply and rainwater harvesting and sanitation, out of the total grants earmarked for Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRI). For fifty Million - Plus cities, two-thirds of allocation of funds under Challenge Fund of Rs. 38,196 crore is meant for meeting service level benchmarks on drinking water supply, rainwater harvesting, water recycling, solid waste management and sanitation.

The FFC report also emphasises on sustainable and efficient water use and has suggested three ways to reduce and rationalise water use in agriculture: (i) by replacing free or subsidised power supply for agriculture with direct benefit transfers (DBT), (ii) encouraging use of new technologies such as drip, sprinkler, sensor-based irrigation to get more crop per drop, and (iii) by conserving and rainwater harvesting to increase the availability of surface as well as of groundwater. FFC has recommended incentive-based grants to States that maintain and augment groundwater stock and maintain a check on any fall in the water table.

Some steps taken by the Central Government to control ground water depletion and promote rain water harvesting/conservation are available at the URL:

http://jalshakti-dowr.gov.in/sites/default/files/Steps_to_control_water_depletion_Feb2021.pdf
