

Government of India
Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4018

To be answered on
Thursday, April 7, 2022/ Chaitra 17, 1944 (Saka)

QUESTION
Clean water in villages of NER

4018. Shri Rakesh Sinha:

Will the Minister of Development of North Eastern Region be pleased to state:

- (a) whether North-East Region possesses more than 33 per cent water of total water available in the country and whether many tribal villages in Khasi Hills of the State of Meghalaya face scarcity of water;
- (b) if so, the number of villages in Meghalaya which face water scarcity;
- (c) steps being taken to utilize huge water resources in the North-East Region;
- (d) the number of villages in the North-East in general and Meghalaya in particular having access to clean water supply; and
- (e) the holistic plan of Government to supply clean water to the villages in the North-East?

ANSWER

The Minister of the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region

[Shri G. Kishan Reddy]

a) Yes Sir. North-East Region (NER) possess about 33 % of average Annual Water Resources availability in the country. Since the rainfall is restricted to around 6 months a year, some villages may face water shortages in the dry months especially from December to March.

b) to e) The Government has launched/approved the following schemes for utilizing the water resources of the country including the North Eastern Region (NER):

(i) Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY) formulated with the vision of extending the coverage of irrigation and improving water use efficiently. Some of the components of this scheme include:

- Repair, Renovation & Restoration (RRR) of water bodies (including 13 in NER)
- Surface Minor Irrigation (SMI) scheme for providing financial assistance to identified minor irrigation projects (including 3845 in NER) using surface water.
- Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojna – Har Khet Ko Paani - Ground Water Irrigation (PMKSY-HKGP-GW) scheme for providing financial assistance to States for assured ground water irrigation to small and marginal farmers.

(ii) Three National Projects in North East, namely, Kulsi Dam Project (Assam), Nao Dihing Dam Project and Upper Siang Project in Arunachal Pradesh have been approved by the Government of India for implementation .

In addition, since August 2019, Government of India in partnership with States is implementing Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), to make provision of potable tap water supply in adequate quantity at the rate of 55 litre per capita per day (lpcd) of prescribed quality (BIS 10500:2021) on a regular and long-term basis to every rural household of the country including NE States, through tap water connection, by 2024. At present 21,999 habitations in the NER states have potable water supply of more than 55 litre per capita per day (lpcd) and efforts are ongoing to improve the overall coverage in this regard.
