

Government of India
Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 4019

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

QUESTION
Mountain springs in NER

4019. Shri Rakesh Sinha:

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

- (a) whether it is a fact that mountain springs are the good and major sources of water in the North-East Region;
- (b) the number of mountain springs in various states of the North-East Region;
- (c) whether it also a fact that large number of mountain springs have dried up;
- (d) the number of springs that dried up across the North-East Region;
- (e) the reasons for drying up of these mountain springs; and
- (f) impact on the people and land due to their drying up?

ANSWER
The Minister of the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region
[Shri G. Kishan Reddy]

- a) Yes Sir. It is true that Springs are good and major sources of water in the North-East Region, as both rural and urban communities depend on springs for meeting their drinking, domestic and agricultural water needs.
- b) Based on the District Census Handbook, 2001, 11956 villages with springs (approximately) have been identified.

c)& d) It has been reported by NITI Aayog in collaboration with International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) that 50% of springs have either dried up or are on the verge of getting dried up .

e) The primary causes of drying of springs in North –East Region may be ascribed to erratic rainfall pattern, seismic activity, ecological degradation, deforestation, land degradation, shifting cultivation, etc. which affect aquifers recharge adversely.

f) The drying up of mountain springs has reduced the availability and access to water for people in the affected areas, including in the North Eastern States. To address this issue, the Government of India has taken several measures including launch/approval of schemes, such as, Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM) to make provision of potable tap water supply in adequate amounts (at the rate of 55 litre per capita per day) to every rural/household in the country, including those in the North Eastern States, by 2024; Repair, Renovation & Restoration (RRR) of water bodies scheme under the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY) ; Surface Minor Irrigation (SMI) scheme under the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY) for providing financial assistance to identified minor irrigation projects using surface water; Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojna – Har Khet Ko Paani - Ground Water Irrigation (PMKSY-HKKP-GW) to provide financial assistance to States for assured ground water irrigation to small and marginal farmers, etc.
