

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1528

NATIONAL WATER AWARDS

SHRI BANSILAL GURJAR DR. DINESH SHARMA

(a) impact of National Water Awards in development, preservation and efficient management of water as a national asset; and

ANSWER

(SHRI RAJ BHUSHAN CHOUDHARY)

Since their inception in 2018, the NWAs have been instrumental in the propagation of the idea of water conservation, preservation and efficient management in general public. It has got reflected in generation of the mass movement through community level participation on a large scale in water conservation campaign of “Jal Shakti Abhiyan” of the Department. Under the Abhiyan, more than 1.05 crore water conservation related works have been completed, out of these nearly 34 lakh works are related to Water conservation and Rainwater Harvesting, 6.5 lakh works on renovation of traditional water bodies, nearly 18.5 lakh related to Reuse and Recharge Structures and nearly 39 lakh works related to watershed development. Besides, NWAs have helped in successful mobilization of communities leading to significant improvements in the groundwater sector. From 2019 onwards, each year, the majority of groundwater monitoring wells (Range 52% to 70%) have shown rising water levels compared

to their average levels from the past decade. This has resulted in significant decline of Over-exploited Assessment units from nearly 17% in the year 2017 to 11% in 2023. While various other factors like rainfall patterns, effective monitoring, support of respective States/UTs, etc have contributed to these achievements in water conservation and management, the contribution of NWAs has been in the form of the awareness generation for successful implementation.
