

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 82

ANSWERED ON 03.02.2025

CATCH THE RAIN

82. DR. ASHOK KUMAR MITTAL

Will the Minister of **Jal Shakti** be pleased to state:

- (a) details of the mechanisms set up to assess the effectiveness of the Catch the Rain2024 campaign in improving rainwater harvesting and water conservation across the country;
- (b) the steps taken to address challenges faced by States and local bodies in implementing rainwater harvesting systems, particularly in water-stressed regions;
- (c) the funds allocated for the implementation of the campaign, and the manner in which Government ensures proper monitoring and utilization of these funds; and
- (d) the progress made in terms of results achieved under the campaign, such as the amount of rainwater harvested and the number of sustainable water conservation structures built, especially in rural and semi-urban areas?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI

(SHRI RAJ BHUSHAN CHOUDHARY)

(a) & (b) The Ministry of Jal Shakti launched the Jal Shakti Abhiyan (JSA) in 2019 as a time-bound, mission-mode water conservation campaign in 256 water-stressed districts. To sustain these efforts, the National Water Mission initiated the Catch the Rain (CTR) campaign in 2020, which was later subsumed into Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain (JSA: CTR) in 2021, expanding coverage to all districts, blocks and municipalities across India. JSA: CTR has now become an annual feature, with its 5th edition launched on 9th March 2024 for implementation until 30th November 2024. In order to assess the effectiveness of the Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain 2024 campaign and to address challenges faced by States and local bodies in implementing rainwater harvesting systems, particularly in water-stressed regions, the Government of India has established a comprehensive, multi-pronged approach wherein Central Nodal Officers (CNOs) and Technical Officers (TOs) from the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) and the Central Water Commission (CWC) conduct field visits to review and monitor the implementation of the JSA: CTR campaign, provide technical guidance and help assess the impact of water conservation interventions.

To ensure effective implementation of the campaign, State Nodal Officers (SNOs) and District Nodal Officers (DNOs) have been appointed at the State and District levels, respectively, to monitor progress and to provide technical assistance. Besides, regular meetings are conducted with SNOs, Municipal Commissioners,

District Magistrates (DMs)/ Deputy Commissioners (DCs), Partner Central Ministries/Departments, Central Nodal Officers (CNOs) and other stakeholders concerned to provide necessary support and gather feedback. Apart from the above, the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), in consultation with State Governments, assesses the country's dynamic groundwater resources annually. These periodic estimations offer crucial insights into groundwater replenishment, utilization and overall availability across all assessment units, aiding various stakeholders in informed decision-making. Furthermore, Jal Shakti Kendras (JSKs) have been established across districts, serving as dedicated resource and knowledge centers to provide technical guidance to locals and support district administration in implementation of rain water harvesting systems. In addition, districts have formulated District Water Conservation Plans to ensure sustainable water management in their respective districts.

(c) Funds spent under the JSA: CTR campaign is through convergent financing from various schemes of the Central, State and local bodies like the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS), Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT), Per Drop More Crop, Repair, Renovation and Restoration Components under the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY), Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA), Finance Commission grants etc. The Government ensures the effective monitoring and proper utilization of these funds through multiple channels, such as the submission of Utilization Certificates (UCs) from States and the deployment of digital platforms like the Public Financial Management System (PFMS), ensuring transparency and accountability in the process.

(d) JSA: CTR campaign has five focused interventions viz. (i) water conservation and rainwater harvesting; (ii) enumerating, geo-tagging & making inventory of all water bodies; preparation of scientific plans for water conservation based on it; (iii) setting up of Jal Shakti Kendras in all districts; (iv) intensive afforestation; and (v) awareness generation. Since the inception of the campaign in 2019, over 1.66 crore water-related works have been undertaken across the country, including rural and semi-urban areas, significantly contributing to water conservation and management. Additionally, 705 Jal Shakti Kendras (JSKs) have been established and 619 districts have developed comprehensive District Water Conservation Plans to promote sustainable water management at the local level. In so far as the amount of rainwater harvested is concerned, it is not feasible to calculate the precise amount of rain water harvested as it depends on number of factors such as size and design of the structures, terrain, rainfall patterns, topography, geology, infiltration and other local conditions etc. making it difficult to assess a uniform data point for rainwater harvested across all regions. However, the collective impact of these efforts continues to foster sustainable water management and conservation throughout the country.
