

[11 March, 2003]

RAJYA SABHA

carriers, traffic rights are increased in accordance with estimated average demand on a particular sector.

2003 as fresh water year

†294. SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN':
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the 2003 has been decided to be celebrated as "Fresh water year";

(b) if so, the facts in this regard;

(c) whether any special scheme for water harvesting has been formulated for implementation this year; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the target of total water harvesting under the scheme and the amount expected to be spent for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI): (a) and (b) Government of India has declared 2003 as 'Freshwater Year' in line with the United Nations' Resolution declaring the year 2003 as 'International Year of Freshwater'. The launching of 2003 as Freshwater Year was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India on 5th February, 2003. The objective of adopting 2003 as Freshwater Year are:

- Increasing awareness among stakeholders regarding scarcity value of freshwater.
- Conservation and efficient use of Freshwater.
- Preservation of Freshwater-quality and its ecosystem.
- Augmentation of freshwater resources.
- Community partnership for informed decision making.

In order to achieve the above objectives following activities are proposed to be taken up under the Freshwater year:

(a) Freshwater Conservation Campaign

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (b) Preservation of Freshwater Ecosystem; and
- (c) Initiating new programmes.

Through out the year, different programmes on the objectives will be taken up in different parts of the country, Water being a state subject, the State Governments have been requested to take up similar activities in the respective States with their own resources.

(c) and (d) No Specific scheme has been formulated to be taken up during the year for water harvesting under the programme. However, Central Ground Water Board under its activity has prepared a scheme for Artificial Recharge of Ground Water and Rain Water Harvesting at an estimated cost of Rs. 3000 crores in the first phase proposed to be implemented during the X Plan period. The scheme is proposed to be implemented in identified areas of various States, particularly in over exploited and Dark blocks, drought prone and water scarcity areas, coastal areas and islands affected by saline water ingress, areas of inland salinity, urban areas showing steep decline in ground water levels and in sub-mountainous/hilly areas of the country. The scheme envisages construction of about 81990 ground water recharge and rainwater harvesting structures which are expected to make available 3943.5 million cubic meter of water for recharge to ground water.

Second Generation Economic Reforms

*295. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government have embarked upon the implementation of second generation reforms in the country;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that the vigorous implementation of economic reforms has not yielded any promise to the youth of the country be way of growth in the employment opportunities;
- (c) if so, the reasons for the joblessness; and
- (d) in what manner Government propose to make the economic growth a promising one for the million of unemployed youth of the country?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (d) Economic reforms are a continuous