

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2065
TO BE ANSWERED ON DECEMBER 14, 2023
POLICY ON WATER HARVESTING FOR CITIES**

NO. 2065.

**DR. SANJEEV KUMAR SINGARI:
SHRI MAGUNTA SREENIVASULU REDDY:**

Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is formulating any policy on water harvesting for those cities in the country where water crisis is continuously increasing and if so, the details thereof;**
- (b) whether any survey has been conducted in this regard;**
- (c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;**
- (d) the names of the cities in Andhra Pradesh where water crisis is increasing continuously as indicated in the survey conducted;**
- (e) whether the Government is running any programme to educate the people regarding water harvesting; and**
- (f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?**

ANSWER

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN AFFAIRS
(SHRI KAUSHAL KISHORE)**

(a) to (d): Water and Sanitation are State/ Urban Local Bodies (ULBs) Subjects. Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA) plays supportive role through schematic interventions and advisories. It provides technical & financial support to States/ ULBs.

MoHUA through its National Missions i.e., Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT) & AMRUT 2.0 is supporting the efforts of State Government for management of water crisis.

Further, as per the information received from States/ Union Territories (UTs), 35 States/ UTs have adopted the provision of rainwater harvesting in their respective building bye-laws as suggested by Model Building Bye-Laws (MBBL) 2016.

Central Public Health and Environmental Engineering Organization (CPHEEO), MoHUA has also published Guidance Document on Creation of Rain Water Harvesting Parks.

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<https://mohua.gov.in/pdf/6566e1048ab41guidance-document-on-rainwater-harvesting-parks-final.pdf>)

Central Ground Water Board (CGWB), a subordinate office under Ministry of Jal Shakti, periodically monitors the ground water levels throughout the Country including cities on a regional scale, through a network of monitoring wells. The details regarding Andhra Pradesh are at Annexure.

CGWB has further completed Aquifer Mapping and Management Programme under the scheme of Ground Water Management and Regulation. The Aquifer Mapping is aimed to delineate aquifer disposition and their characterization for preparation of aquifer/ area specific ground water management plans. The management plans are shared with the respective State Governments for taking appropriate measures and implementation.

Ministry of Jal Shakti launched a campaign “Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch The Rain” with the tag line “Catch the rain, where it falls, when it falls” to nudge the states and all stakeholders to create Rain Water Harvesting Structures (RWHS), with people’s active participation focusing on saving and conserving rainwater.

(e) & (f): National Water Mission (NWM) has been implementing Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain (JSA:CTR) campaign with the objective to nudge the States and stake-holders to create appropriate Rain Water Harvesting Structures (RWHS) suitable to the climatic conditions and sub-soil strata before monsoon. Under this campaign, drives to make check dams, water harvesting pits, rooftop RWHS etc., removal of encroachments and de-silting of tanks to increase their storage capacity; removal of obstructions in the channels which bring water to them from the catchment areas etc., repairs to step-wells and using defunct bore-wells and unused wells to put water back to aquifers etc. are being taken up with the active participation of people.

One of the focused interventions of the campaign includes awareness generation. For generating awareness amongst the citizens especially in youth and children and to increase the public outreach of the programmes/ schemes of the Government, National Water Mission undertakes intensive Information, Education & Communication (IEC) activities which includes organizing workshops/ webinars/ seminars, disseminating the message of water through films/ jingles/ songs, holding nukkad nataks/ slogans/ wall writings etc. through Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS). NWM through NYKS has achieved involvement of over 40 million of youth in 3 million activities under JSA: CTR. In the current year, NWM collaborated with concerned Ministries for broadcast of ‘Just Junior’ series on television, promotion of ‘Mission LiFE’, Vinyl Wrapping of Trains.

CGWB has prepared a Master Plan for Artificial Recharge to Groundwater- 2020 in consultation with States/ UTs which is a macro level plan indicating various structures for the different terrain conditions of the country including estimated cost. The Master Plan envisages the construction of about 1.42 Crore Rain water harvesting and artificial recharge structures in the country to harness 185 Billion Cubic Meter (BCM) of monsoon rainfall. Besides, the other important steps taken by the Central Government for sustainable ground water management including water conservation and rain water harvesting in the country can be seen at:

<https://cdnbbsr.s3waas.gov.in/s3a70dc40477bc2adceef4d2c90f47eb82/uploads/2023/02/2023021742.pdf>

Under AMRUT 2.0, rejuvenation of water bodies and wells is one of the main components. So far, under AMRUT 2.0, 2,135 Water Body Rejuvenation projects worth ₹3,802 crore have been approved by MoHUA. Aquifer Management Plan will also be prepared to focus on maintaining positive groundwater balance in urban aquifer systems.

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) to (d) OF UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2065 TO BE ANSWERED IN LOK SABHA ON 14.12.2023 REGARDING “POLICY ON WATER HARVESTING FOR CITIES”.

Decadal Water Level Fluctuation with Mean [NOVEMBER (2012 to 2021)] and NOVEMBER 2022 in Andhra Pradesh

S.No.	Name of the City	No. of wells Analyzed	Rise						Fall						Rise		Fall	
			0-2 m		2-4 m		>4 m		0-2 m		2-4 m		>4 m		No	%	No	%
			No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%	No	%
1	Vijayawada	3	1	33.3%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	33.3%	1	33.3%	0	0.0%	1	33.3%	2	66.7%
2	Vishakhapatnam	16	7	43.8%	1	6.3%	1	6.3%	5	31.3%	2	12.5%	0	0.0%	9	56.3%	7	43.8%