

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI  
DEPARTMENT OF DRINKING WATER & SANITATION

**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2637**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 17/03/2022

**DRINKING WATER SCARCITY IN HIMALAYAN REGION**

2637. SHRI RAJU BISTA:

Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the steps being taken by the Government to deal with drinking water scarcity in the Himalayan regions during the last three years;
- (b) the details of programmes and projects undertaken by the Government for conservation and recharging of natural sources of water in Darjeeling and Kalimpong districts of West Bengal;
- (c) whether any monitoring system has been put in place to track the status of water sources and natural springs and if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) the details of new technologies being adopted for conservation and upgradation of conventional water sources?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF STATE FOR JAL SHAKTI  
(SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL)

(a) Since August 2019, Government of India, in partnership with States, is implementing Jal Jeevan Mission (JJM), to make provision of potable tap water supply to every rural household of the country, including those in Himalayan States, by 2024.

(b) to (d) Drinking Water being a State subject, it is States, who plan, design, approve and implement drinking water supply schemes. Government of India supplements the efforts of the States by providing technical and financial assistance. As such details of individual projects/schemes for rural water supply projects are not maintained at the Government of India level. However, under JJM, provisions have been made for taking up augmentation and strengthening of local & ancient drinking water sources, including those in Darjeeling and Kalimpong districts of West Bengal, in convergence with other schemes at village level viz. MGNREGS, 15th Finance Commission tied grants to Rural Local Bodies (RLBs), Integrated Watershed Management Programme (IWMP), State schemes, District Mineral Development Fund, CSR funds, community contribution, etc.

Further, National Water Mission under this Ministry has taken up the “Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain” (JSA:CTR) with the theme “Catch the Rain – Where it Falls When it Falls” to cover all the blocks of all districts (rural as well as urban areas) across the country during 22nd March 2021 to 30th November 2021 – the pre-monsoon and monsoon period which *inter alia* had five focused interventions- rainwater harvesting & water conservation (including renovation of traditional and other water bodies/ tanks; recharge using old bore wells; watershed development etc.), enumerating, geo-tagging & making inventory of all water bodies; preparation of scientific plans for water conservation, setting up Jal Shakti Kendras in all districts, intensive afforestation and awareness generation. Intervention-wise progress reported under JSA: CTR (completed as well as ongoing works) as on 08.03.2022 is as under:

- i.) Water Conservation & Rainwater Harvesting Structures: 16.22 lakh;
- ii.) Renovation of traditional water bodies: 2.97 lakh;
- iii.) Reuse and recharge structures: 8.31 lakh;
- iv.) Watershed development: 1.19 Crore;
- v.) Intensive afforestation: 36.75 Crore;
- vi.) Training programmes/ Kisan Melas: 0.44 lakh;
- vii.) Jal Shakti Kendras: 340

In addition, important measures taken by the Central Government for conservation, management of ground water and effective implementation of rain water harvesting in the country are available in public domain at:

[http://jalshakti-dwr.gov.in/sites/default/files/Steps\\_to\\_control\\_water\\_depletion\\_Feb2021.pdf](http://jalshakti-dwr.gov.in/sites/default/files/Steps_to_control_water_depletion_Feb2021.pdf)

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