

Sixteenth Loksabha

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Title: Need for the Inter-Ministerial effort at the Government of India level for the redevelopment of harvesting activities.

SHRI ANIL SHIROLE (PUNE): Sir, the implementation of rainwater harvesting activities is yet to attract the importance in our country. At present, there is no Inter-Ministerial effort at the Government of India level. A lot needs to be initiated at the individual household level also. Wherever there is a pucca house, the owner or occupant should be encouraged not to concretise the front, rear and side-margins of the structure so that it will help in the percolation of rainwater in order to enhance the stock of the groundwater.

In addition, footpaths and roadsides need to be redeveloped within fixed time-frame to increase the percolation of rainwater. In order to promote seepage of rainwater in the groundwater underneath and to increase ten per cent post-monsoon flows in watercourses, a massive effort to develop the catchment areas as well as surface, feeding plant species therein, need be initiated.

Therefore, I feel there is a need to urgently prioritise and implement these suggestions on a time-bound manner through the monitoring by an Inter-Ministerial body at the Central Government level.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel is permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Anil Shirole.