

**Need to launch a national mission for Traditional Water Body Restoration Scheme with a dedicated component for desert states-Laid**

**SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY (PALI):** I wish to draw the attention of the Government to the urgent need for restoring India's traditional water-harvesting systems, particularly the Tanka, Naadi, and Baori structures widely found in Rajasthan. For centuries, these community-built systems enabled survival in extremely arid conditions, provided drinking water to rural households, and ensured resilience during droughts. Though the Jal Jeevan Mission has brought access to tap water for most rural households in the country, however, due to rapid urbanisation, neglect, siltation, and groundwater dependency, thousands of these traditional water-harvesting structures have either fallen into disrepair or disappeared entirely. Rajasthan receives less than 500 mm of annual rainfall on an average, with various regions of the state experiencing regular droughts. In particular, my Parliamentary Constituency, Pali faces acute water scarcity. In this context, I urge the Ministry of Jal Shakti to launch a National Mission for Traditional Water Body Restoration Scheme, with a dedicated component for desert states. This mission should include mapping, desilting, structural strengthening, community-led maintenance, and integration of these systems into the existing water supply schemes.