

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
WATER RESOURCES  
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2751  
ANSWERED ON:21.03.2005  
DRYING UP OF PONDS  
Chinta Mohan Dr. ;Nahata Smt. P. Jaya Prada

**Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:**

- (a) whether nearly 2.77 to 2.92 lakh ponds have dried up during the previous decade in the country;
- (b) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard;
- (c) the extent to which water storage capacity in the country has decreased owing to drying up of such a large number of ponds; and
- (d) the remedial steps proposed by the Government in this regard?

**Answer**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV)

(a) & (b) Water is a State subject. Information on number of ponds and those which have dried up is not available with all states. As per Minor Irrigation Census carried out by states and compiled by Ministry of Water Resources for the year 1993-94, 3,50,239 Minor Irrigation Tanks/Ponds/Bundhies were in use. 59,224 such ponds were not in use out of which 9889 were dried up ponds.

(c) Decrease in water storage capacity of ponds is usually not owing to drying up but is a result of siltation/filling up by debris due to various reasons. Data on decrease in storage capacity of ponds is not maintained.

(d) The State Governments take up works of deepening and desilting of ponds to increase the storage capacity. Work of construction of structures for creating new storages and for other works for augmentation of water supply are also taken up. The Union Government has approved a Pilot Scheme "National Project for Repair Renovation and Restoration of Water Bodies directly linked to Agriculture" at a cost of Rs. 300 crore for funding implementation of pilot projects by states during the remaining period of the X Five Year Plan. This will enable restoration and augmentation of storage capacity of the water bodies and recover and extend their lost irrigation potential. Once the pilot projects are completed and validated, launching of National Water Resources Development Project to include all water bodies in the country is proposed.