

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3670
ANSWERED ON:19.12.2005
WATER CRISIS IN RAJASTHAN
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Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is aware of water crisis in Rajasthan;
- (b) if so, the remedial steps so far taken by the Government in this regard;
- (c) the number of exploratory wells so far constructed by the Central Ground Water Board for handing over to the State Government alongwith assistance provided by the Government; and
- (d) the benefits so far accrued to Rajasthan under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefits programme?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) FOR HEAVY INDUSTRIES, PUBLIC ENTERPRISES AND WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV)

(a) & (b) Rajasthan is a rain deficient region of the country. However, as per the information received from Government of Rajasthan, there is no water crisis in the State. Under irrigation sector, the Government of Rajasthan has taken effective action for expeditious utilisation of available water resources in Rajasthan as under.

(i) For renovation and rehabilitation of existing irrigation systems, two major projects, namely Rajasthan Water Sector Re- structuring Project (RWSRP) and Rajasthan Minor Irrigation Improvement Project (RMIIIP) have been taken.

(ii) For ground water recharge, a master plan of 48000 structures has been prepared, out of which works on 17000 structures have already been completed.

(iii) Government of Rajasthan has also made a shift from ground water based schemes to surface water based schemes. In this regard, drinking water projects costing Rs. 3500 crore have been sanctioned.

(iv) For more than 7000 monitoring stations (Key wells and piezo meters), regular monitoring of water table is being done and Rajasthan State Ground Water Department has prepared a Master Plan for 299 artificial recharge schemes.

(v) Construction of Roof Top Water Harvesting Structures (RTWHS) has been made mandatory for the plots having plot area more than 500 square meters.

(vi) To mitigate the drinking water problem of peoples of affected villages/habitations, a contingency plan of Rs. 211.00 crore has been prepared. It includes development of existing drinking water sources, construction of 1073 new tube wells, 8825 new hand pumps, extension of 1280 kilometres (km) pipelines and transportation of water by road in approximately 10,000 habitations (maximum expected during peak summer) in rural areas.

(vii) Similarly, development of existing drinking water sources, construction of 300 new tube wells, 1623 new hand pumps, extension of 267 km pipelines and transportation of water by Rail have been proposed in Urban areas.

(viii) A special Hand pump repair campaign has been started in all 32 districts of Rajasthan from 1.12.2005.

(c) 876 exploratory wells have been constructed by the Central Ground Water Board for handing over to the Government of Rajasthan.

(d) An amount of Rs. 1523.10 crore has since been released to Government of Rajasthan under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP). About 3,18,061 hectares of irrigation potential has been created through schemes completed with AIBP support.