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Title: Need to utilize the MNREGA funds for water conservation in the country.

SHRI S.P. MUDDAHANUME GOWDA (TUMKUR):I would like to draw the kind attention of the Hon'ble Minister of Rural Development to consider utilizing the MGNREGA Funds for conservation of water in the country.

Depletion of underground water and continuous drought situation in almost the entire country, including the state of Karnataka, has been causing acute shortage of drinking water. Consequential effect is the reduction of density of forest which results in the shortage of rainfall. Now, it is the time to seriously think about recharging and rejuvenation of underground water. The MGREGA is one of the weapons which can be used to take up civil works for conservation of water for which some relaxation and guidelines need to be issued. Major portion of the MGREGA funds should be utilized for conservation of water. In addition to this, the Government of India should also take up this work as a flagship programme and earmark some budgetary allocation for this purpose.

I urge upon the Union Government to consider this proposal and take appropriate and immediate action in this regard.