

G. ASOK KUMAR, IAS
Addl. Secy. & Mission Director
National Water Mission



भारत सरकार/GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
जल शक्ति मंत्रालय/MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI
जल संसाधन, नदी विकास और गंगा संरक्षण विभाग
DEPTT. OF WATER RESOURCES,
RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION
राष्ट्रीय जल मिशन/NATIONAL WATER MISSION

D.O.No.M-65022/1/2020-MD(NWM)

Dated: 27th February, 2020

Dear Sir /Madam,

National Water Mission (NWM) was set up in 2011 with the objective of "conservation of water, minimizing wastage and ensuring its more equitable distribution both across and within States through integrated water resources development and management".

2. Rising populations, growing industrialization and expanding agriculture have pushed up the demand for water which has given rise to major concerns over water conservation. Water conservation is one of the primary focus issues of the Government. Hon'ble Prime Minister in his "Man Ki Baat" on June 30th 2019 and in his address to the nation on the independence day of 2019 and in his letter sent on 8th June 2019 to all Sarpanches stressed on the need for water conservation.

3. In the meeting of the 'Inter-Ministerial Committee on Water Conservation' held on 16.01.2020 and chaired by Secretary, Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation (DoWR, RD&GR), it was decided to seek co-operation of various stake holders to start preparatory work for harvesting rain water with right earnest from March 2020 itself, so that appropriate Rain Water Harvesting Structures (RWHS) suitable to the climatic conditions and sub-soil strata are ready by first week of June itself, ie before the onset of monsoon "to catch the rain". A copy of the minutes of the meeting is enclosed.

4. Rainwater harvesting and recharging groundwater are effective measures for conserving water. RWHS are necessary for sustainable water management and states should endeavor to make them mandatory. Capturing the rainwater can help recharge local aquifers, reduce urban flooding and most importantly ensure water availability in water-scarce zones. State Governments may consider to ensure building RWHS to tap rain water from roof-top of all government, semi-government and corporate buildings. RWHS can be taken up to tap rain water from open-grounds of all establishments like universities, educational institutions, PSUs etc having large open areas with them before the onset of the next monsoon. To facilitate this, States may consider establishing Rain Water Centres (RWCs) in every district headquarters to generate awareness and give technical guidance on RWHS. These could be set-up in Collectorates or Municipality offices and manned by dedicated trained personnel having well published official mobile phone numbers to give technical assistance and help in preparation of estimates etc. This should be functional till monsoon gets over. Model structures could be constructed in Gram Panchayat

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blogs/websites should be set up to help exchange ideas and best practices. States may also setup a nodal agency in the state headquarters to monitor the progress of work in this regard. It is requested that this process be initiated immediately so that works are completed by end of May 2020.

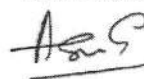
5. Traditional water bodies were built to harvest the rainwater, prevent flooding into the city core and use this water for various purposes. Rapid urbanization and encroachment has resulted in deterioration of traditional water bodies. States may give impetus to revive these water bodies through a participatory approach for drinking or recreational purposes and to recharge groundwater. Drives for removal of encroachments, desilting of tanks to increase their storage capacity; and removal of obstructions in the channels that bring water to them from the catchment areas etc may be taken up. Deepening of step-wells and using defunct borewells to put the water back to the earth etc may also be taken up. States may use state funds or funds provided under MGNREGA for these activities.

6. Rain Water harvesting could be the most sustainable solution not only to recharge the groundwater aquifer but also to provide adequate storage of water for future use. Thus it will help to cope up with the potable water demand in summer. States may therefore immediately formulate a plan of action for taking up water harvesting measures in a scientific and systematic manner in urban as well as rural parts of the country.

7. I request you to convene a meeting of all stakeholder departments to prepare a plan of action and initiate steps to take up development of RWHSs so that these structures are ready by June, 2020 to "catch the rain", when the monsoon arrives.

with regards,

Yours Sincerely,



(G. Asok Kumar)

Chief Secretaries of all States / UTs