



D.O. No. M-93012/1/2021-NWM

16th March 2021

Dear Chief Secretary,

We write to you regarding the 'Jal Shakti Abhiyan 2021' to make preparations for water conservation and recharge before the onset of monsoon so as to maximize utilization of rainfall during the monsoon.

2. You may recall that the Jal Shakti Abhiyan was taken up in 2019, covering 1,592 blocks, out of 2,836 blocks in 256 water-stressed districts of country. The Abhiyan achieved considerable success in creating mass awareness and eliciting peoples' participation for water conservation. A large number of works were undertaken and successfully implemented. In 2020, the Abhiyan, as such, could not be taken up due to situation caused by spread of Covid-19, but the States were requested to take up water conservation works under various schemes and programs (ref: DO No. J-11060/4/2019-RE-VI(e-366816) dated 24 April, 2020).

3. This year, the Jal Shakti Abhiyan will be taken up in the pre-monsoon and monsoon seasons, covering both urban and rural areas of **all districts** in the country, focusing on the saving and conservation of rainwater.

4. Hon'ble Prime Minister will launch the 'Jal Shakti Abhiyan' with the theme 'Catch the rain-Where it falls, when it falls' on 22 March 2021 (World Water Day). He will address District Magistrates/District Collectors/Deputy Commissioners of all districts and Sarpanchs of all Gram Panchayats, except in the election bound States, through video conferencing. It is requested that after the address by the Hon'ble Prime Minister, special Gram Sabhas may be organized in all Gram Panchayats of your State to exclusively discuss issues related to value of water and water conservation. In this regard, DO letter dated 11 March, 2021 from the Cabinet Secretary and DO letter from the Secretary, Ministry of Panchayati Raj dated 12th March, 2021 may be referred to.

5. In the Jal Shakti Abhiyan, the Districts may take up following activities, in particular:

- (i) Removal of encroachments in the water bodies with and their renovation including de-silting, constructions/ strengthening of inlets/outlets, repairs etc of these tanks and ponds;

Contd... 2/-

- (ii) Rejuvenation of small rivers and rivulets through community driven river basin management practices;
 - (iii) Catchment area treatment (afforestation etc.);
 - (iv) GIS mapping of all the water bodies and an inventory of all water bodies in the country;
 - (v) Preparing scientific plans for water conservation based on the water availability, nature of soil strata etc.
 - (vi) Setting up of Jal Shakti Kendras, a knowledge center on water, in the district headquarters.
 - (vii) Taking up works for water conservation through watershed development projects and MGNREGA works and drawing up GIS based watershed development plan for all Gram Panchayats.
 - (viii) Utilizing Finance Commission's grants for Gram Panchayats for implementation of JSA activities, wherever required.
 - (ix) Convergence of JSA 2021 activities with the celebration of 75 years of Independence.
 - (x) Taking up roof top rainwater harvesting in government buildings, particularly panchayat offices, aanganwadis, schools and PHCs.
6. The "JSA-II- Catch the rain awareness campaign", started in December 2020 by National Water Mission in collaboration with the Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan has been building up the tempo for the campaign by involving students and youth for the last 3 months. Their support may be taken for expanding the outreach of the campaign.
7. For effective implementation of water conservation activities, consultation/ collaboration with Departments of Irrigation/ Water Resources/ Agriculture/ Drinking Water and Sanitation/ Forest/ Panchayati Raj Institutions/ Rural Development/ Youth Affairs of the respective States/ UTs is essential. A meeting of all concerned may be convened to firm up JSA activities ensuring convergence.
8. Regional offices of Central Ground Water Board and State Level Nodal Agencies (SLNA) of WDC-PMKSY programme will be able to provide technical support to select suitable locations for construction of suitable water harvesting/ ground water recharge structures.

Contd... 3/-

9. Participation of people and involvement of community is critical in success of the Abhiyan. Steps may be taken to encourage people from different walks of life to participate in the Abhiyan, keeping in mind the constraints of social distancing norms and precautions associated with the Covid pandemic.

10. We sincerely hope and believe that with your personal efforts to lead and monitor these convergent efforts, there would be a significant positive impact in the area of water conservation and sustainable water management in the country.



(Pankaj Kumar)
Secretary
Ministry of Jal Shakti
Government of India



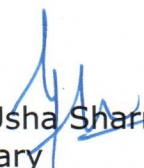
(Nagendra Nath Sinha)
Secretary
Department of Rural
Development
Ministry of Rural
Development
Government of India



(Durga Shankar Mishra)
Secretary
Ministry of Housing &
Urban Affairs
Government of India



(Sunil Kumar)
Secretary
Ministry of
Panchayati Raj
Government of India



(Smt Usha Sharma)
Secretary
Ministry of Sports &
Youth Affairs
Government of India



(Sanjay Agarwal)
Secretary
Department of Agriculture,
Cooperation & Farmers'
Welfare,
Ministry of Agriculture &
Farmers' Welfare
Government of India



(Shri Ajay Tirkey)
Secretary
Department of Land
Resources
Ministry of Rural
Development
Government of India



(Dr. Trilochan Mohapatra)
Secretary
Department of Agricultural
Research & Education
Ministry of Agriculture &
Farmers' Welfare
Government of India



(R.P. Gupta)
Secretary
Ministry of Environment,
Forest & Climate Change
Government of India