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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI
DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES,
RIVER DEVELOPMENT & GANGA REJUVENATION
SHRAM SHAKTI BHAWAN
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D.O. No. T.40011/12/2019-GW Section

August 13, 2019

Dear

As you are aware, Ministry of Jal Shakti has launched Jal Shakti Abhiyan (JSA) on 1st July, 2019 in 1592 water stressed blocks of 256 Districts in the country and is currently in progress. I would like to apprise you that a review meeting on JSA was taken by the Cabinet Secretary on 2nd August 2019 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, which was attended by all the designated Nodal Officers and Technical Officers.


During the meeting the participants gave the feedback about the ground situation and suggested for certain corrective measures for success of the Abhiyan. One of the important points raised during the meeting was on the potential use of defunct / unused / abandoned Bore wells / Tube wells/ Dug wells/ Dug-cum Bore wells/hand-pumps etc. for the purpose of ground water recharge. This is also one of the identified intervention areas of the JSA.

You will agree that these existing structures offer a low-cost solution for ground water augmentation through rain water harvesting / surface runoff with minimal engineering interventions. All such defunct structures may be connected with surface run-off water, harvested through monsoon rainfall for easy and effective recharge of shallow aquifers. This type of intervention is likely to make some of the wells/hand-pumps etc. functional apart from improving ground water level of surrounding areas and may meet drinking water needs for the habitations. However, it is pertinent to mention here that necessary precautions to prevent contamination of the ground water may be taken while implementing such interventions. Technical advice in this regard shall be made available by Central Ground Water Board wherever needed by the State Government.

In view of the above, I would request you to kindly issue necessary directions to all the District Collectors in your State/UT, even beyond the JSA Districts, to establish appropriate mechanism to identify defunct / unused / abandoned Bore wells / Tube wells/ Dug wells/ Dug cum Bore wells/hand-pumps and use them for ground water recharge for improved availability of ground water resources in that area.

With warm regards,

Yours sincerely,


(U.P. Singh)

Chief Secretaries / Administrators of all States / UTs

जल संरक्षण - जीवन संरक्षण
Conserve water - Save life