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केन्द्रीय भूमिजल बोर्ड
पश्चिमी क्षेत्र, जयपुर
REPORT ON
LAUNCHING PROGRAMME OF “JAL KRANTI ABHIYAN” 2015-16 IN RAJASTHAN

Introduction:

In view of rapidly growing population, over exploitation of ground water resources, pollution of surface and ground water resources, coupled with adverse impact of climate change, and considering the development need of our fast growing country, there is an urgent need to promote as well as consolidate the activities of water conservation, optimization of water use efficiency and water demand management in the country, through a holistic and integrated approach. It is apprehended that if the water related challenges are not addressed properly, in a time bound manner, the rapidly growing water demand is likely to lead to water conflicts among different user groups as well as the basin States.

Keeping in view of the above concerns, the Hon’ble Minister of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Government of India has decided to launch a nationwide water campaign named ‘Jal Kranti Abhiyan’ 2015-16 in the country with the aim to create awareness among various stakeholders about the importance for water security and water conservation and also to help in resolving several water related issues in the country. Jal Kranti Abhiyan is primarily a convergence programme wherein all relevant existing and planned schemes of Government of India will be brought at one platform in order to achieve the objectives. The broad goals of the programme are as follows:

- Strengthening grass root involvement of all stakeholders including Panchayati Raj Institutions and local bodies in the water security and development schemes e.g. Participatory Irrigation Management (PIM);
- Encouraging the adoption/utilization of traditional knowledge in water resources conservation and its management;
- To utilize sector level expertise from different levels in government, NGO’s, citizens etc; and,
- Enhancing livelihood security through water security in rural areas.

Various activities have been planned under Jal Kranti Abhiyan 2015-16, such as Jal Gram Yojana, Development of Model Command Area, Pollution Abatement, Mass Awareness Programme etc. The detailed guidelines have been circulated to States for adoption and implementation. As planned, the water conservation and water security schemes will be taken up to ensure optimal and sustainable provision of water to at least one water stress village in each of 672 districts in the country, with effective involvement of stakeholders. All actions will be taken by the State Governments and the various organizations of the Ministry such as Central Water Commission, Central Ground Water Board etc. For the implementation of the activities under Jal Kranti Programme at state level, the State level committee under the chairmanship of Principal Secretary, Water Resource Department and District level committees under the Chairmanship of District Collectors would be constituted. For overall
monitoring and coordination at National level, an Advisory and Monitoring committee will be constituted at National level under the chairmanship of Additional Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Government of India.

Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Government of India had launched “JAL KRANTI ABHIYAN 2015-16 on 5.6.2015 in the country at three places, namely Jaipur (Rajasthan), Jhansi (Uttar Pradesh) and Shimla (Himachal Pradesh). The launching of the programme also coincides with World Environment Day as declared by the United Nations.

Launching of Jal Kranti Abhiyan programme at Rajasthan

The launching of JAL KRANTI ABHIYAN programme 2015-16, was organized by Central Ground Water Board and Water Resource Department, Government of Rajasthan at B.M.Birla Auditorium, Jaipur on 5th June, 2015, and was inaugurated by Sushri Uma Bharti, Hon’ble Minister of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Government of India. The launching programme commenced with the release of hot air balloons with the message of Jal Kranti Abhiyan 2015-16 by the Hon’ble Minister and the children. The Hon’ble Union Minister also visited and appreciated the exhibition stalls put up by the Central Ground Water Board. In the exhibition, various posters, models and other campaign materials related to water management aspects were exhibited by the CGWB, CWC and WRD, Rajasthan. The display of the exhibits were appreciated by the Hon’ble Minster and the dignitaries beside the other visitors.

The launching ceremony in the Birla Auditorium was marked by the traditional welcome of the Hon’ble Minister, presentation of bouquets to the dignitaries, Lighting of lamp and the playing of the Shankhnad, symbolising the launching of the Jal Kranti Abhiyan. Publications related to Jal Kranti Abhiyan guidelines and Ground Water Scenario of Rajasthan, 2015 were also released by the Hon’ble Union Minister and other dignitaries during the inaugural programme. Beside the Hon’ble Minister, the other dignitaries on dais were Dr. Ram Pratap Hon’ble Minister of Water Resources, Shri Prabhulal Saini, Hon’ble Minister of Agriculture, Department of Animal Husbandry, Fisheries, Horticulture, Gopalan, Shrimati Kiran Maheshwari, Hon’ble Minister of PHED & GWD, Shri Rajpal Singh Shekhawat, Urban Development and Housing, Local Self Government, Shri Sriram Vedire, Chairman, Rajasthan Rajya River Basin Authority, Shri Ramcharan Bohra, Hon’ble Member of Parliament, Jaipur, Shri Om Birla, Hon’ble Member of Parliament, Dr. B. Rajender, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Government of India, Shri K. B. Biswas, Chairman, Central Ground Water Board, Shri Ajitabh Sharma, Secretary, WRD, Rajasthan.

The programme was initiated by Shri K.B. Biswas, Chairman, Central Ground Water Board. In his welcome address, Shri Biswas expressed concerns on the growing water related challenges in the country due to increased water demand for growing population, agricultural productivity and industrial development etc. and emphasized for the promotion of activities
related to water conservation, efficient water use and its management. He also highlighted the important role of Jal Kranti Abhiyan in addressing the water issues in the country. Shri Ramcharan Bohra, Hon’ble Member of Parliament (Jaipur) welcomed the participants. The gathering was also addressed by Shrimati Kiran Maheshwari, Hon’ble Minister of PHED & GWD, Rajasthan and Dr. Rampratap, Hon’ble Minister of Water Resources, Rajasthan. A brief power-point presentation was made by Shri Shriram Vedire, Chairman, Rajasthan River Basin Authority, Rajasthan. In his presentation Shri Vedire explained the various aspects of Jal Kranti Abhiyan.

Sushri Uma Bharti, Hon’ble Minister of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Government of India, in her inaugural address presented a brief overview of the importance and objectives of Jal Kranti Abhiyan and emphasized the need for consideration of Jal Kranti Abhiyan as a people movement, for achieving the objective of water security and socio economic development in the country. She further explained the different aspects of Jal Kranti Abhiyan being initiate by the Government of India, in particular the convergence of different programmes of the government under Jal Kranti Abhiyan to address the water related issues of the villages. She also informed that one village in each district of Rajasthan has been selected for pilot implementation of this programme. During her address the Hon’ble Minister had also emphasised the need for participation of village people for effective management of water resources in the country.

The launching programme was followed by a brief technical session, wherein detailed presentations on water management initiatives were made by Jal Bhagirathi Foundation, National Water Mission, Central Ground Water Board and Central Water Commission.

There was a massive gathering of people in the auditorium wherein more than 3000 people from all sections of the society, including Members of Parliament, Members of State Legislative Assembly, Members of Zila Parishad, NGOs, Students, Farmers and stake holders and the Central and State Government officials etc., were present. The launching ceremony received deep public appreciation and wide media coverage, including electronic and print media.

After the conclusion of inaugural programme at Jaipur, the Hon’ble Union Minister, along with Hon’ble Ministers of Rajasthan, Members of Parliament, Members of Legislative Assembly, other dignitaries and government officers visited two villages namely, Laporria village and Gahlota village, both in Jaipur District, which are about 90km away from Jaipur city.

The first village visited by the Hon’ble Minister was the Laporria village in Dudu block. In this village, commendable work on conservation of water resources has been carried out by Shri Laxman Singh, Secretary and Founder of Gramin Vikas Navyuvak Mandal Laporriya (GVNML), an NGO. The Hon’ble Union Minister and other dignitaries visited several water conservation structures in the village. Shri Laxman Singh explained about how this work has benefited the village and improved the availability of water in the village. The Hon’ble Minister appreciated the initiatives taken by Gramin Vikas Navyuvak Mandal in conservation of water in
the area, which was earlier a water stressed area. The Hon’ble Union Minister also addressed a large gathering at Lajoriya village. In her address, the Hon’ble Minister appreciated the work done in the village and emphasised the importance of peoples participation in water conservation. She also mentioned about the role of CGWB and introduced Shri K.B. Biswas, Chairman CGWB to the audience.

Sushri Uma Bharti, Hon’ble Minister of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, along with dignitaries and government officials, subsequently visited the Ghallota Village, which has been selected as ‘Jal Gram’ under Hamara Jal Hamara Jeevan programme. In a large gathering of more than 500 people, the Sarpanch of Ghallota Gram Panchayat welcomed the Hon’ble Minister and solicited the need for government interventions in addressing the water scarcity problems in the village. In her address, the Hon’ble Minister assured all possible assistance for provision of increased water supply for irrigation and drinking water supplies. She further emphasized the importance of people participation in conservation of water resources and protection of environment by giving examples from several mythological stories. The Hon’ble Minister also gave example of the Lajoriya village where water resources scenario has been completely transformed by the people themselves. She had further assured the villagers about provision of government funding for various water related activities in this Jal Gram.