

# The best way to conserve water is its judicious use.

Water is an important natural resource and is the very basis of our life. We use water for drinking, irrigation, industry, transport and for the production of hydro-electricity. Water is a cyclic resource which can be used again and again after cleaning.



A large quantity of water is used for irrigation and there is an urgent need for proper water management in irrigation sector. Over-irrigation through canals has led to water-logging in western Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana and Hirakud command area. Seepage along the canals can be checked by lining them. The overdraft by tube-wells has resulted in lowering of water table in a number of villages in Haryana, Punjab and western Uttar Pradesh.

In arid areas, wherever water has been brought for irrigation, saline and alkaline tracts have emerged, rendering the soil infertile. Wasteful use of water should be checked. Sprinkler irrigation and drip irrigation can play a crucial role in conserving scarce water resources in dry areas. Drip irrigation and sprinkles can save anywhere between 30 to 60 per cent of water.

Only 0.5 per cent—nearly half of this in Maharashtra—is under drip irrigation and 0.7 per cent under sprinklers. There is large-scale pollution of water as a result of industrialisation and urbanisation. This trend has got to be checked.

Although one-eighth of India is declared as food prone, there are several thousand villages in India which do not have potable drinking water. The basins should be treated as one unit for planning water utilization.



## Using RAINWATER where potable water is not required..

There is a great demand of water in industries and the industrial sector offers great opportunities to conserve water. The economy in water-use in this sector will have two benefits. Firstly, the saved water may be used to meet the demand in other sectors. Secondly, the effluents thrown in the water bodies will be less.

Water in most industries is used for cooling purposes, thus, it is not necessary to use fresh potable water. Instead, the recycled water may be used for this purpose. By using the recycled water over and over again, fresh water can be conserved.

Demand of water for domestic use can also be reduced. For example, in most urban areas about 12.5 litres of water is used in one flushing. In some cities cisterns requiring only 5 to 7 litres of water in one flushing are now used.

Thus if each urban individual adopts smaller cisterns, the amount of water consumption for flushing can be reduced to half. Similarly, if raw water is used for cleaning, gardening, etc., a lot of fresh potable water can be saved. Water used in kitchen sink, wash basin and in bathroom can be collected into a tank and reused for flushing toilet and gardening also.



# Recycle Water

