

The waters of Eastern rivers are estimated at 17.17 MAF.

The States of Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan, Delhi and Jammu and Kashmir are the beneficiaries in receiving the Eastern river waters.

Gujarat is entitled to Indus Basin water as the region of Kachchha falls in the Indus Basin.

The allocation of Eastern river waters is reviewed from time to time based on availability of water and geographical situation of States.

The hydrological conditions and geographical situation of Kachchha are the same as that of Rajasthan which should be considered while reviewing the allocation of water under the "Indus Water Treaty".

The hon. Chief Minister of Gujarat in the fifth meeting of the National Water Resources Council held at New Delhi on 1st April, 2002 has requested the hon. Prime Minister for allocation of Indus Basin Water to Kachchha region of Gujarat but no response is received till today.

Gujarat faces acute water shortage and the region of Kachchha is vulnerable to scarcity, drought and famine.

Sir, I request that water of Sindhu should be allocated and Gujarat must be included in allocation of waters of Eastern rivers.

SHRI A.K. PATEL (Gujarat): Sir, I associate myself with it.

Destruction of Food and Horticulture Crops and Killing of People by Wild Elephants in Karnataka and other States

SHRI M.V. RAJASHEKHARAN (Karnataka): Sir, the conflict between man and animal has assumed serious proportions. Now, we find that the killings of wild elephants have caused enormous destruction of food and horticulture crops. This has been happening in Karnataka, Chhattisgarh, Bihar and Jharkhand. Sir, in Karnataka, this is creating serious problems to the farming community living in the outskirts of Bangalore city. Unless barriers are created, it is difficult to contain this menace. Therefore, the Central Government should provide sufficient funds to the State of Karnataka. The Central Government should not just say that it is the responsibility of the States. Tamil Nadu has also been very much affected by this problem of elephant menace. Sensitive areas must have barriers to stop the menace of wild elephants. It is a national problem. The Government of India gives only Rs. five crores, annually. This amount is not

sufficient. It has to be increased five times. There must be a policy and strategy put in place to have an integrated development of the national parks and for the eco-development, which can also earn income by maintaining the national parks as places of tourist interest. At present, the Bhanneraghatta National Park gets a very meagre amount. Rs. fifty lakhs were announced last year but only Rs. 20 lakhs were given. Thereafter, no funds have been released. The Central Government should take both short-term and long term measures to contain the destruction of crops and killing of human beings by wild elephants, specially, in Karnataka, and also allocate more funds for the development of the Bhanneraghatta National Park, as well as provide funds to the Project Elephant to create natural habitation for the elephants in order to contain the conflict between man and animal. Thank you.

Need to constitute Indo-Bhutan River Commission

SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY (West Bengal): Sir, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to raise a very important matter. Sir, rivers Torasa, Kalijani, Jaldhakka, Raidak, Gadadhar, originating from Bhutan, are flowing through the districts of Jalpaiguri and Coochbehar in West Bengal, causing recurrent floods in the State for the last two decades. The intensity and fury of floods are such that vast areas of the districts get inundated every year. As a result of this fury of floods, the State had to incur heavy loss of crops, human lives and cattle, damage to thousands of houses and so on. The floods are caused by indiscriminate mining of the dolomite mines and denuding forest cover in Bhutan. As a result of this, the beds of the above rivers get siltation resulting in further erosion of embankments of the rivers. Since Bhutan is our neighbouring country, it is necessary on the part of the Government of India to take initiatives to spearhead this vital issue with the Government of Bhutan to constitute the Indo-Bhutan Joint Rivers Commission to tackle the problem. Thank you.

Need to Enact a Central Legislation for Welfare of Agricultural Workers in the Country

SHRI V.V. RAGHAVAN (Kerala): Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to raise this special mention on the need to enact a Central legislation for the welfare of agricultural workers in the country. The agricultural workers, who constitute the largest chunk of the country's working force, are the most downtrodden section in our society. They are subjected to exploitation by the landlords and other richer sections in our