

Funds Allocated for rain water harvesting

† 1484. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any Rain Water Harvesting Scheme for implementation national level;

(b) if so, the broad outlines of the schemes;

(c) the names of the States where the implementation of said scheme has started; and

(d) the funds allocated by Government for this purpose State-wise during the current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) The Central Ground Water Board, under the Ministry of Water Resources had implemented demonstrative rain water harvesting and recharge projects in the country, under its Central Sector Scheme for study of Recharge to Ground Water on "Pilot basis" during IX Five Year Plan, at a cost of Rs. 23.48 crore. Under this scheme, a total number of 174 projects were approved for implementation in 27 States/Union Territories. The Government has prepared a Central Sector Scheme of Recharge of Ground Water, at an estimated cost of Rs. 150 crore for inclusion in the X Five Year Plan. The scheme is at consultation stage. As such, no funds have so far been allocated to the States under the scheme during the current financial year.

Steps for checking erosion in Murshidabad, W.B.

1485. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the steps Government have taken to check the bank erosion of Ganga in the district of Murshidabad, West Bengal;

(b) whether Government are aware that a vast stretch of India land in Indo-Bangladesh border has been engulfed by this continuous erosion

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

and thus caused serious concern about the change of Indian border line with Bangladesh; and

(c) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI): (a) The State Governments of West Bengal as well as Farakka Barrage Project Authority are implementing various schemes suggested by the Expert Committee to take care of the problem. The Government of India has released an amount of Rs. 17.88 crore to Government of West Bengal as Central Assistance during IX Plan for anti-erosion schemes of West Bengal *inter-alia* covering the district of Murshidabad also.

(b) and (c) No information from the State Government in this connection has been received, so far.

Outcome of the Indo-French Conference

† 1486. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a research and Training Centre was inaugurated in February, 2002 under the aegis of Indo-French Technical and Scientific Co-operation to study water and waste management.

(b) if so, the outcome of such a conference;

(c) whether government have been benefited out of such a joint venture; and

(d) in what manner it would help to tackle the water problem that exists in the country?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. A modern State of the art Indo-French Unit for Water and Waste Technologies has been established at Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi under the aegis of Indo-French Technical and Scientific Cooperation. The facilities therein shall be available for training field functionaries working in Government, Industries and NGOs. It will help to train University Teachers and facilitate advanced technology transfer in the water and waste management. It will also help in tackling the water problems by providing facilities for water quality monitoring and control and by making available high level research facilities in the water sector.