

(b) and (c) Specific complaint regarding discrimination has not been received from any State.

(d) There is no proposal for revision of said programme.

(e) Does not arise.

Flood/Drought in Bihar

†3095. SHRI LAXMINARAYAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for problem of floods in North Bihar and drought in South Bihar;

(b) the number of proposals received by State Government and Central Government regarding solution of these problems and by whom;

(c) the action taken on these proposals;

(d) the reasons for laxity and negligence in addressing such serious problems being faced in Bihar; and

(e) the steps to be taken for improving the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (e) Flood and drought are natural phenomenon. Recurrent floods problem in North Bihar is, however, linked with the flood waters brought by rivers flowing from Nepal. A number of reservoir schemes have been envisaged in the Nepal territory on these rivers such as, Saptkosi High Dam at Barakhshetra, Bagmati Multipurpose project at Noonthar, Kamala Dam at Chisapani, etc., to store the flood water. The Government of India has set up a Joint Project Officer (JPO) at Biratnagar (Nepal) in August 2004 to undertake field surveys and investigations in order to conduct feasibility and prepare the project reports of the aforesaid projects.

State Government of Bihar has also undertaken the raising, strengthening and extension of existing flood embankments on the rivers, namely, Kosi, Gandak, Burhi Gandak, Lalbakeya, Baghmati and Kamla Balan to contain the flood waters, with Central assistance.

As per the information available from the Government of Bihar, the State Government has identified six intra-state rivers links to divert the excess flood water from flood affected to rain-deficient areas in order to overcome the problem of floods in North Bihar and drought in South Bihar.

Farmer participatory action research programme

3096. PROF. M.S. SWAMINATHAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present position of the Farmer Participatory Action Research Programme of the Ministry;

(b) the number of farmers included, the number of institutions participating and the results obtained during the Khariff, 2007; and

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) the steps being taken to spread the efficient water conservation and utilization procedures adopted by the Panchayat of Hiware Bazar in Ahmednagar district of Maharashtra, which was recognised through the first National Water Prize last year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) Ministry of Water Resources has approved 63 proposals for implementation of 5000 Farmer's participatory Action Research Programmes with the help of 60 institutions throughout the country. The implementation of the programmes started with the release of funds to the institutions in the month of November, 2007 after the Khariff, 2007. The programme has been designed for demonstrating the improved irrigation technologies to the farmers to ensure increased yield and income per drop of water through generating synergy among water, variety of agronomic practices, particularly relating to macro and micronutrients in the soil, and implements.

Upgradation of canal infrastructure in Punjab

3097. SHRI DHARAM PAL SABHARWAL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that century old canal irrigation network of 14,500 kms in the State of Punjab has outlived its life;

(b) whether it is also a fact that State Government has made specific requests to the Central Government for upgradation of canal infrastructure;

(c) if so, what are the details of recommendations made by the State Government; and

(d) the step being taken to give clearance to the State Government for upgradation of canal infrastructure in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (d) The Hon'ble Chief Minister of Punjab in a letter dated 27.02.2008 has sought financial assistance for anti water logging measures in Punjab including canal relining and has enclosed a concept note in this regard. The note mentions of century old canal network in the State. No extent of the network which has outlived its life has been mentioned.

The concept note mentions that on the basis of recommendations made by a Central Ground Water Board Team which visited the water logged areas of Muktsar, Ferozpur and Faridkot districts during the month of September-October 2007, a comprehensive Anti-Water Logging Project has been prepared comprising of schemes concerning new surface drains, sub-surface drains, installation/rejuvenation of lift pumps, correction in deficiencies of existing drains by constructing new bridges or by deepening and widening of the existing drains, laser leveling and other miscellaneous issues such as pisciculture, bio-drainage and energisation of shallow tube wells. The estimated cost of the above project is about Rs. 300 crores. The concept note further mentions that the results of the above measures would not last for a long time if no corrections are made at the source of seepage and has therefore proposed relining of Rajasthan Feeder from RD 179000-496000 and Sirhind Feeder from RD 124000-434587 as it would save a substantial amount of canal water for Rajasthan and Punjab and also check water logging in the adjoining areas of the canals to a large extent. The estimated cost for the relining works out to about Rs. 425 crore for Rajasthan Feeder Canal and Rs. 225 crore for Sirhind Feeder Canal as per the concept note. Thus the total anticipated cost of the proposal as mentioned in the note is Rs. 950 crores.