

Alternate arrangements for irrigation

†5469. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the present capacity for the use of water resources through big and medium dams has failed to work appropriately;
- (b) if so, the reasons thereof;
- (c) whether Government are considering on other cheap alternatives for irrigation in the country; and
- (d) if so, the action taken by Government in this regard and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) to (d) The Government's focus has been towards a conjunctive, holistic and integrated approach for the use of water resources, which, *inter-alia*, include big and medium dams apart from other alternatives.

Cost escalation of the Sardar Sarovar Dam

5470. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) the detail of original estimated cost of Sardar Sarovar Project and the original time schedule for its completion;
- (b) whether it is a fact that the project has been inordinately delayed;
- (c) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (d) the extent to which cost escalation has taken place due to this delay; and
- (e) the steps taken by Government for completion of Project without further delay?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (DR. C.P THAKUR): (a) The Sardar Sarovar Dam Project was cleared for implementation in October, 1988 at an approved estimated cost (1986-87 price level) of Rs. 6406.04 crores. As per original plan of construction the project was scheduled to be completed by June 1998.

- (c) to (e) The project has been delayed mainly on account of the matter being *sub-judice*. Cost escalation on account of the delay can be worked out only after the Hon'ble Supreme Court delivers the judgement.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi. .