

- (b) the amount spent in compensation to acquire land;
- (c) the progress of work; and
- (d) the expected date of completion of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) An amount of Rs. 160.48 Crore has been incurred on Thonbal multipurpose project upto March 1999;

(b) As per the progress of expenditure made available by the State Government, an amount of Rs. 19.27 Crore has been spent in the payment of compensation to acquire land up to March 1999;

(c) The progress of works upto March 1999 is as under:—

Component	%age progress
1. Headworks	
(a) Dam	10% 19%
(b) Spillway	Completed
(c) Barrage	
2. Main and Branch Canal	69%
3. Distribution system upto Chuk outlet	50%

(d) Completion of this project will depend upon the priority attached to it by the State Government.

Training to Panchayats in Himachal Pradesh

786 SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government propose to develop a methodology for training Panchayats in Himachal Pradesh in efficient use of water for agriculture;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) Training to farmers, including members of the Panchayats, is imparted on different aspects of Water Management, including, efficient use of water for agriculture under various schemes of the Central Government and the Government of Himachal Pradesh. Under the Centrally Sponsored Command Area Development Programme of the Ministry of Water Resources the farmers as well as members of the Panchayats are trained on the various aspects of efficient use of irrigation water for agriculture. Water Users' Associations are formed to man the supply of water at the field level and comprehensive training is also provided in using high yielding varieties of seeds, efficient use of fertilizer and pesticides to adopt changed cropping pattern etc. Credit is also arranged through the cooperatives. Panchayats play a dominant role in local development especially after the 73rd Constitutional amendment; and they are fully involved in these activities.

(c) Does not arise.

Depletion of ground water level

787. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that- the under-ground water level is decreasing in several States;
- (b) if so, the reasons therefor;
- (c) the State-wise details thereof; and
- (d) the steps taken to deal with the problems arising out of the depletion of ground water level?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) Long term observations made by the Central Ground Water Board have