

Shortage of Surface Water

†3469. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the severe water crisis is likely to arise due to the scarcity of surface water all over the country;

(b) if so, what plan is being formulated by Government to tackle this problem;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the people are using the water while this water is not fit for drinking in many parts of country due to which situation is likely to aggravate; and

(d) if so, the measures being taken by Government?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN CHARAN SETHI): (a) and (b) According to international criteria, any situation of yearly water availability of less than 1000 cubic metre (cu.m.) per capita is considered as scarcity condition. It is estimated that due to increasing population, the average annual per capita water availability may come down from about 1869 cu.m. at present to about 1350 cu.m. by 2025 A.D. at the national level.

Water resources development including construction of storages for utilization of water is taken up by the State Government as per their own priorities. Upto 1995, a live storage capacity of 177 Billion Cubic Meter (BCM) has been created by construction of large dams in the country. Besides, projects to add an additional storage capacity of about 75 BCM are under construction and 132 BCM are under planning. The replenishable ground water is of the order of 432 BCM, out of which about 154 BCM has been developed for use. With the help of these storages and other minor irrigation schemes an irrigation potential of 90 Million hectare (Mha) has been created upto the end of the Eighth Plan against the ultimate irrigation potential of 139.9 Mha in the country.

As a long term measure National Water Development Agency

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

established in 1982 under the Ministry of Water Resources have formulated National Perspective Plan for water resources development which envisages interlinking between various peninsular rivers and Himalayan rivers for transfer of water from surplus basins to water deficit basins. The agency has completed pre-feasibility studies of all the 17 water transfer links under the Peninsular Development component and 14 water transfer links under the Himalayan rivers Development component. Feasibility studies of 5 water transfer links have also been completed.

(c) and (d) A total of 2,17,218 habitations in the country have water quality problems like, excess fluoride, excess salinity, excess iron, excess nitrates, etc. Excess of Arsenic is also found in parts of West Bengal. State Governments implement rural water supply programme under the State Sector Minimum Needs Programme (MNP). Government of India supplements the efforts of the State Governments by providing funds under the Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) and Prime Minister's Gramodaya Yojana (PMGY) — Rural Drinking Water. The States/UTs can utilize up to 20% of the ARWSP funds for Sub-Mission programmes meant for tackling quality problems and sustainability issues in respect of rural drinking water. Under the PMGY — Rural Drinking Water, up to 75% of the allocation could be used for taking up projects/schemes to tackle quality related problems and for providing safe drinking water to Not-Covered (NC)/Partially Covered (PC) habitations.

Earthquake Resistant Dams

3470. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased state:

- (a) whether major dams in the country are earthquake resistant;
- (b) whether any dam got crack due to recent earthquake occurred in Bhuj and Ahmedabad; and
- (c) what safety measures are being taken to protect the dams from earthquakes?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI ARJUN