

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P. K. THUNGON) : (a) The proposal of the Government of Maharashtra for diversion of additional 1500 hectares of forest land in Dhula district for resettlement of Sardar Sarovar Project oustees has been approved under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 on 22-2-94.

(b) Number of Sardar Sarovar Project affected families from 33 villages of Dhula district of Maharashtra State is about 3065. They have choice to get rehabilitated either in Maharashtra or in Gujarat. Out of this, nearly 2500 project affected families have opted for settlement in Maharashtra. State Government of Maharashtra has a programme to construct 4 gaothans with all civic amenities at Somaval for this purpose. While one gaothan is ready, two more gaothans are scheduled for completion by June, 1994. With release of 1500 hectares of forest area additional space has now become available for construction of more gaothans to the benefit of project affected families.

Ground Water Resources in Desert Areas of Rajasthan

1769. SHRI RAJENDRA PRADAD MODY : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether any survey has been conducted in the ground Water resources in desert areas of Rajasthan ;

(b) whether Government have identified several potential aquifers leading to development of plans to construct tube-wells in clusters ; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to ameliorate the drinking water scarcity in Rajasthan ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P. K. THUNGON) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Under the scientific exploratory drilling programme, for locating the ground water resources, the Central Ground Water Board have identified potential aquifers in the desert districts of Banner, Bikaner, Churu, Ganganagar, Jaisalmer, Jalore, Nagaur, Jodhpur Pali and Sikar of Rajasthan.

(c) The results of scientific exploratory drilling have been intimated to the State Government for development of ground water resources for various purposes including drinking water supply.

Setting up of Upper Yamuna Board

1770. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Delhi has urged the Central Government to set up and Upper Yamuna Board so that equal share of river water is given ;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Central Government thereto ;

(c) whether Government have contemplated serious efforts to get the right share of water to Delhi State ; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P. K. THUNGON) : (a) and (b) The co-basin States, including Delhi, of Yamuna basin have agreed in principle to set up an Upper Yamuna River Board. A Committee headed by Member (WP), Central Water Commission and Secretaries of co-basin States as members was constituted to formulate draft constitution and function of the Board. The Committee has submitted its report.

(c) and (d) Allocation of Yamuna waters upto Okhla based on mean annual availability has been discussed and agreed by the co-basin States. However, there has been no agreement on the time frame for its implementation.

Feasibility Reports for Water Transfer Links

1771. SHRI S. K. T. RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number and details of water transfer links, identified under peninsular component, and the preliminary feasibility reports completed so far by the National Development Agency ;

(b) whether the feasibility report circulated to basin states in regard to the water transfer of Achankoil Pamba rivers have been responded so far by the concerned basin states ;

(c) if so, what feed back has been received from the State Governments concerned; and

(d) what steps are taken by Government to implement the project of diversion of Achankoil-Pamba rivers to Tamil Nadu ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P. K. THUGON) : (a) A total of 17 water transfer links have been identified under the Peninsular component of the National Perspective for water resources development. Preliminary feasibility reports of 13 links have been completed by the National Water Development Agency.

(b) and (c) The preliminary feasibility report of Pamba-Achankovil-Vaigai link was sent to the State Governments of Kerala and Tamil Nadu for their comments/suggestion Whereas no comments have been received from Government of Kerala on the Project Report, the State Government has indicated their apprehensions about adverse environmental impact on Vembanad Lake and informed that* they have assigned the study of entire river system connected with Vembanad Lake to the Centre for Water Resources Development and Management (C.W.R.D.M.), Kozhikode. In the comments received from Government of Tamil Nadu, the State Government has suggested, among other things, transferring more water from the Kerala rivers and some design modifications in the Link Canal to Command additional area.

(d) A sub-committee has been set up under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources with Secretaries of the concerned State Governments as Members to facilitate survey and investigation and consensus among concerned States. The sub-committee held its meeting on 10th August 1993 and suggested that in order to maintain or even improve the existing conditions in the project area, National Water Development Agency should take up, in consultation with concerned State Governments, various alternative studies taking into account regional

socio-economic and environmental balances into consideration.

Receding Ground Water Level of Delhi

1772. SHRIMATI KAMLA SINHA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the ground water level of Delhi is receding to more than 70 feet underground ;

(b) whether this drop in the ground water level is due to the fact that the rainwater during the monsoons is allowed to flow into the Yamuna through canals instead of being stored; and

(c) If so, whether Government have taken any steps for the storage of rainwater in ponds etc. which would increase the ground water level and add to the fertility of the soil ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P. K. THUNGON) : (a) As per the pre-monsoon observations made by the Central Ground Water Board in May, 1993 through its hydrograph stations, ground water was generally available in Delhi at a depth ranging from 1.71 mts. to 15.00 mts except at Ghitorni Bhati and Maksudpur in Mehrauli block where the ground water level was at a depth of more than 21.34 mts (70 ft.).

(b) The fall in ground water level is mainly attributed to heavy withdrawals of ground water in Delhi.

(c) The Central Ground Water Board has initiated action on an Artificial Recharge Project in Union Territory of Delhi.

Existing Shortage of Drinking Water supply in Delhi

1773. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) what is the existing shortage of drinking water supply in Delhi both in the Summer and Winter months as against the demand ;

(b) what is the percentage of rise in the demand of drinking water in Delhi in 1993 as against the demand in 1992;