

Assessment of ground water level

841. SHRI T.T.V. DHINAKARAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any survey has been conducted to assess ground water level in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) The Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) conducts survey of ground water levels in the country through a network of 15640 observation wells throughout the country. Water levels are monitored four times in a year during the months of January, April/May, August and November with a view to observe the trend of water level fluctuations.

National water policy

842. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is any proposal to review National Water Policy as the existing National Water Policy is inadequate to resolve the various water issues in this country; and
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which a comprehensive new National Water Policy is likely to be announced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) The National Water Policy, 2002 (NWP) was adopted by the National Water Resources Council on 1st April, 2002. The NWP addresses the various issues related to development and management of both surface and ground water resources. The NWP states that it may be revised periodically as and when need arises. Observations / views of a number of people were received in respect of NWP from time to time and they were duly examined by the Ministry of Water Resources. The examination of these views did not call for immediate need for reviewing the NWP. The National Action Plan on Climate Change envisages revisiting the National Water Policy in consultation with States to ensure basin level management strategies to deal with variability in rainfall and river flow due to climate change.

Criteria for declaring project as national project

843. SHRI PARIMAL NATHWANI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has declared 14 projects on different rivers as National Project on 7 February, 2008;
- (b) the reasons for not including Narmada Project which is one of the biggest three projects in the world; and

- (c) what are the basic criteria for declaring project as National Project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Sardar Sarovar Project is already eligible for 90% central grant for the irrigation component of the project falling under drought prone and tribal area. The Power Houses of the project had already been completed. Till date, the Sardar Sarovar Project has been provided with Central Assistance of Rs.5375.3585 crore under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) which is highest Central assistance provided to any project in the country.

- (c) The criteria for selection of National Project is as under:

- (a) International projects where usage of water in India is required by a treaty or where planning and early completion of the project is necessary in the interest of the country.
- (b) Inter-State projects which are dragging on due to non-resolution of Inter-State issues relating to sharing of costs, rehabilitation, aspects of power production etc., including river interlinking projects.
- (c) Intra-State projects with additional potential of more than 2,00,000 hectare (ha.) and with no dispute regarding sharing of water and where hydrology is established.

Percentage of irrigated cultivable land

†844. SHRI JAI PARKASH AGGARWAL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) the percentage of cultivable land irrigated in the country as on date;
- (b) the increase in the percentage of irrigation during the last three years, year-wise and State-wise; and
- (c) the details of increase irrigation in against in production during above mentioned period, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) As per the Land Use Statistics of Ministry of Agriculture, the net irrigated area is 33.4% of the total cultivable land during 2006-07.

(b) As per information provided by the State Governments, during the last three years *i.e.* 2005-06 to 2007-08, an irrigation potential of 5.32 million hectares has been created. The state-wise details is at the Statement-I (*See below*).

(c) State-wise estimates of foodgrains production by Ministry of Agriculture during the last three years *i.e.* 2005-06 to 2007-08, is as the statement-II.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.