

[27 November, 2001] RAJYA SABHA

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BUOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Government of Uttaranchal has proposed splitting up the projects under schedules I, II and III as follows:—

- (i) Schedule-I containing the Canal systems to be coordinated by the Ganga Management Board (GMB).
- (ii) Schedule-II containing the reaches of rivers under the purview of GMB but on which the States shall have exclusive right within their respective territories to the non consumptive use of rivers; and
- (iii) Schedule-III containing the points (Reservoirs/Canals) at which *status quo* as on 9.11.2000 on the distribution of waters among the States shall be maintained.

The Government of Uttar Pradesh has communicated its observations to the Central Water Commission stating that the draft resolution is not in accordance with some provisions of the Uttar Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2000. The Observations of Uttar Pradesh have been sent to Government of Uttaranchal by Central Water Commission in October, 2001.

Losses due to Flood

† 1057. SHRIMATI SAROJ DUBEY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that there has been a heavy loss in many parts of the country due to the floods every year;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) if so, whether Government are going to take some concrete steps to tackle the flood problem;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRA-VARTY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Flood Management being a State subject, flood control schemes are planned, funded and executed by the State Governments themselves out of their own resources and as per their own priorities. Central Government renders assistance that are technical, catalytical and promotional in nature.

The Government of India has set up Ganga Flood Control Commission to tackle the flood problem in Ganga basin, which has prepared comprehensive plans for flood management for all the 23 river systems of Ganga basin. Similarly, the Brahmaputra Board set up by the Government of India under an Act of Parliament has prepared Master Plan for main Brahmaputra & Barak valley *inter-alia* to control floods in North Eastern region. These plans have been forwarded to respective State Governments for preparing detailed schemes based on ground surveys and for implementation.

The Central Government has also set up 159 Flood Forecasting Stations on major interstate rivers which give timely warning to all flood affected regions in various States.

The Government of India constituted several expert committees to study the problem of floods in the country. The Rashtriya Barh Ayog (RBA) set up in 1976 examined the problem in detail and submitted its report in 1980. The recommendations of RBA, which form the framework for flood management strategy in the country, were forwarded to all the State Governments for implementation.

Further, number of other Expert Committees/Task forces were constituted from time to time to examine the area/region specific problems relating to floods, whose recommendations were also sent to the respective State Governments for implementation.

Strengthening of Water Management System

† 1058. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the country can be declared as flood free by strengthening, water management system in the country;

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether Government have taken any steps so far in this direction;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) by when the country would be made flood free?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BUOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a), (b) and (e) Flood is a natural phenomenon. Complete protection to all flood affected areas against all magnitudes of flood is neither practically feasible nor economically viable. Reasonable protection against flood using judicious combination of structural and nonstructural measures is the strategy adopted for flood management.

(c) and (d) Flood Management being a State subject, flood control schemes are planned, funded and executed by the State Governments

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.