

(e) Section 6(1) of the Inter State River Water Disputes Act, 1956 provides that the Central Government shall publish the decision of the Tribunal in the Official Gazette and the decision shall be final and binding on the parties to the dispute and shall be given effect to by them.

Accordingly, the decisions given by Narmada Water Dispute Tribunal, Godavari Water Dispute Tribunal and previous Krishna Water Dispute Tribunal were notified on 12.12.79, 7.7.80, 31.5.1976 respectively.

Strategies of water availability

1474. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has recently convened a meeting of Secretaries from the States to discuss strategies of water availability in view of below normal rainfall during the current monsoon season;

(b) if so, the details of discussions held and outcome thereof;

(c) whether any instructions have been given to States to ensure steps to provide water in the needy areas; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA):

(a) The Ministry of Water Resources did not convene any "meeting of Secretaries from the States to discuss strategies of water availability in view of below normal rainfall during the current monsoon season". However, the annual meeting of Principal Secretaries/Secretaries — in-charge of Irrigation, Water Resources and Command Area Development Departments of the States/UTs was held on 24.06.2009 to discuss the progress in respect of ongoing schemes/Programmes. The agenda for the meeting include; (i) Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme and related issues; (ii) Flood Management; (iii) Command Area Development and Water Management; (iv) Ground Water Management; (v) Repair, Renovation and Restoration of Water Bodies; and (vi) Externally Aided Projects. In view of the said position, it would be observe that the subjects for discussion in the meeting of Principal Secretaries/Secretaries were different from than those mentioned in the Question.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Inter-State river water disputes

1475. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is pretty serious to solve the problem of Inter-State River Water Dispute;

(b) if so, the Stage of Cauvery river dispute, Mullaperiyar river dispute and Palar river dispute;

(c) whether it is true that Government is avoiding the issue or evading the issue; and

(d) whether there would be a time-frame to solve these problems pending for years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA):

(a) Yes, Sir. The Government has enacted Inter-state Water Disputes Act in 1956 for adjudication of water disputes and amended the same in 2002 for time bound adjudication of the disputes and the Act is now called Inter State River Water Disputes (ISRWD) Act, 1956.

(b) and (c) The Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal (CWDT) submitted report and decision under Section 5(2) of the ISRWD Act, 1956 on 5.2.2007. Party States and Central Government sought guidance/clarification from the Tribunal under section 5(3) of the Act. Further, party States have also filed Special Leave Petitions (SLPs) in the Hon'ble Supreme Court against the report and decision of the Tribunal.

The Government of Tamil Nadu has filed an Original Suit No. 3 of 2006 in respect of Mulla Periyar Dam before the Hon'ble Supreme Court. The Hon'ble Supreme Court passed an order on 25.9.2006 starting [the two State Governments independently or with the intervention of the Union of India may try to sort out, if possible, the dispute]. The Hon'ble Union Minister (WR) convened an Inter-State meeting of the Chief Ministers of States of Tamil Nadu and Kerala on Mulla Periyar dam issue on 29.11.2006 and again with the Minister concerned of two States on 18.12.2006. No solution acceptable to both States emerged in these meetings. The matter is now subjudice.

The Government of Tamil Nadu has filed a suit in the Supreme Court in respect of Palar River Water issue in February, 2006. In the hearing dated 7.1.2008 the court passed the order that Central Government would be at liberty to settle the disputes between the two States. Accordingly, two inter state meetings were held by Central Water Commission (CWC) on 11.3.2008. and 26.8.2008. As decided in the above meetings, a study group under the chairmanship of Chief Engineer, Hydrological Study Organisation, CWC has been constituted for arriving at water availability at various points in the basin. The representatives of both the States are members of this study group. The study group held a meeting in this regard on 24.6.2009.

(d) Time frame for the giving decision by the tribunals in this regard is defined at section 5(2) and 5(3) of ISRWD Act, 56. Further, it depend upon the disposal of the court cases filed by the party states in this regard.

Reservation for women in jobs and promotions

†1476. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that working women are facing problems regarding jobs and promotions due to lack of reservation;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.