

that it would make a comprehensive assessment of the feasibility of linking the rivers of the country starting with the southern rivers. The assessment would be done in a fully consultative manner. It would also explore the feasibility of linking sub-basins of rivers in States like Bihar.

(b) and (c) NWDA has so far received 30 proposals of intra-state links from six states. At present, the mandate of NWDA is to prepare Pre-Feasibility Reports (PFRs)/Feasibility Reports (FRs) of intra-state links proposed by the states. NWDA has completed the PFRs of 4 Intra-state links. Out of these, three reports have been sent to the concerned State Governments for their examination and comments. Further course of action in this regard depends upon their comments.

(d) The Government of Bihar has sent proposals of six intra-state links. PFR of one link has been completed and sent to the Government of Bihar for their examination and comments. The action-plan for implementation of augmenting balanced water-flow in rivers along the flood prone areas in Bihar depends upon the outcome of above studies.

Kosi Embankment

695. SHRI N.K. SINGH:

SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that nine months after a massive breach in the Kosi embankment triggered catastrophic floods in North Bihar there is danger of repeat in breach of embankment;

(b) if so, whether due to persistent rains in Nepal, the coffer dams have been washed away;

(c) if so, the facts thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to carry out repairs and maintenance of Kosi embankment and to help State Government to face the situation?

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

(a) to (d) The breached section of the eastern afflux bund of Kosi Barrage at Kusaha (Nepal) which was washed away on 18.08.2008 has been completely repaired by the state Government of Bihar on 31st May, 2009. In addition, the flood protection works for strengthening of eastern afflux bund recommended by Kosi High Level Committee have also been completed by Government of Bihar.

The coffer-dams were constructed to facilitate the breach closure work, have served its purpose and there is no problem even if these are washed away now as these are not the flood protection works of permanent nature.

For reconstruction of the breached section of eastern afflux bund, the State Government of Bihar submitted a scheme amounting to Rs.143.42 crore, which was approved by the Government of India and an amount of Rs. 69.90 crore was released to the State Government during 2008-09. The remaining amount would be released on receipt of final bills.