

(a) whether it is a fact that all officers of National Projects Construction Corporation (NPCC) are getting the latest pay scales and other facilities;

(b) if so, then, whether it is also a fact that the workers of NPCC Ltd. are still getting the old pay scales and facilities fixed in 1989;

(c) if so, whether Government will take any effective measures to iron out this pay scale related anomaly between officers and workers; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise in view of the answer to (a) above.

Treat to riverside villages

2245. MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that several riverside villages in Orissa are facing threat of being wiped out;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the number of villagers that are being affected; and

(d) the steps taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. As informed by the State Government of Orissa, several villages located in the vicinity of different rivers are acting threat of damages due to bank erosion, bank sliding, flood water entering into the villages and inundation etc.

(c) The details regarding the villagers affected are maintained by the State Government.

(d) A state sector scheme namely, "Flood Management Programme (FMP)" has been approved in 'in principle' by the Cabinet in its meeting held on 02.11.2007 at an estimated cost of Rs. 8000 crore for Eleventh Plan period for providing central assistance to the States. Under the FMP Scheme, a total of 69 flood management/anti-erosion/drainage development schemes amounting to Rs. 163.63 crore from Orissa have been included and 1st instalment of central assistance amounting to Rs. 45.90 crore has been released to the state in July, 2008.

Watching of Kosi river through satellite

2246. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Kosi river is now being watched through satellite;
- (b) if so, the names of the agencies that are doing the job;
- (c) whether any data has come up suggesting risky flow of water in the months ahead and/or any embankments still needing repairs; and
- (d) if so, the action contemplated in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) to (d) National Remote Sensing Agency (NRSA), under the Department of Space, Government of India is collecting remote sensed photos periodically of the critical areas including river Kosi under the national programme. There is no information which suggests risk to the existing embankments.

Central Ground Water Board (CGWB)

2247. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the CGWB in association with the concerned State Governments makes periodical assessment of the availability of ground water in the country;
- (b) if so, whether the latest assessment made in this regard has shown that the level of ground water is depleting year after year in almost every State;
- (c) if so, the comparative figures of the last three assessments, State-wise;
- (d) whether some remedial steps have been proposed by CGWB to the States to raise the ground water table at the requisite level; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof and the strategy chalked out in consultation with the States in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) to (c) The Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) in association with State Governments carries out periodic assessment of the availability of ground water in the country. As per latest assessment made in year 2004, decline in the levels of ground water has been observed in certain parts of the country. State-wise details of ground water resource assessment as per last three assessments are given in the enclosed Statement (See below).

(d) and (e) The steps taken for augmentation of ground water recharge include, circulation of a Model Bill to States/UTs to facilitate ground water regulation and water harvesting for artificial recharge, circulation of a Master Plan on artificial recharge of ground water, implementation of schemes on repair, renovation and restoration of water bodies, implementation of a Scheme on demonstrative rain water harvesting and artificial recharge to ground water, implementation of a scheme on artificial recharge of ground water through dugwells.