

#### **Problem of Water Shortage**

696. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:

SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIYA:

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Supreme Court has recently directed Government to constitute a committee to conduct 'scientific research to solve the problem of water shortage in the country;

(b) if so, whether on the basis of the directions of the Supreme Court, Government has since taken any steps;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the details of other steps Union Government in consultation with State Governments propose to take to meet the shortage of water in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) to (d) The Hon'ble Supreme Court, through an order issued on 28th April, 2009, directed the Central Government to constitute a Committee, within two months from that date, with Secretary, Ministry of Science and Technology as the Chairman and Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources as Member and other technical members of the committee as nominated by the Chairman, for finding out inexpensive solution to address the problems of water shortage. In pursuance of this order, the Government of India has constituted a Technical Expert Committee with provisions for consultation with the representatives of the State Governments. Steps are also being formulated for wider consultation to the solutions found out through scientific research to address the problem of water scarcity in India.

#### **Decline in Flow of Big Rivers**

697. PROF. ALKA BALRAM KSHATRIYA:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether flow of water in world's largest rivers including India's Ganga has declined over past half century with significant changes found in about a third of big rivers;

(b) whether analysis of 925 major rivers from 1948 to 2004 showed an overall decline in total discharge;

(c) whether reduction in inflow of Pacific Ocean alone was about shutting off Mississippi river;

(d) whether according to report annual flow into Indian Ocean dropped by about 3 per cent or 1450 cubic kilometres; and

(e) if so, what are other points mentioned in study report and what steps are being considered?

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

(a) and (b) A paper titled "Changes in Continental Freshwater Discharge from 1948 to 2004" based