

Water shortage

113. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the water shortage is mostly due to poor management of rivers in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how Government propose to solve this primary important need of the hour of the people in each State especially in Andhra Pradesh cities like Hyderabad and Secunderabad?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) to (c) There are various reasons for shortfall in meeting the demand of water for various purposes which *inter-alia* include lack of the developed facilities and poor management of the created facilities for optimal utilization of available water resources for specific purposes.

With a view to optimally utilize the available water resources for meeting the demand for different purposes several measures for development and management of water resources are undertaken by the respective State Governments which include creation of storages, restoration of water bodies, rain water harvesting, artificial recharge to ground water and adoption of better management practices. State Governments conceive, plan and implement major, medium and minor irrigation schemes both surface and ground water for utilization of water resources. Government of India provides central assistance to State Governments through various schemes/programmes such as Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP), Command Area development and Water Management (CADWM) Programme, National Project for Repair, Renovation and Restoration of Water Bodies directly linked to agriculture and scheme for Artificial Recharge of Ground Water through Dugwells.

The Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board has informed that the requirement of water for the twin cities of Hyderabad and Secunderabad are met through various sources including reservoirs and bore wells etc. For meeting the shortage in specific areas, mobile tankers are also used.

Embankments in Sunderbans

114. SHRI ISHWAR SINGH:

SHRI N.K. SINGH:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has constituted a task force to assess the damage caused by cyclone "Aila" to the embankments in sunderbans in West Bengal;

(b) if so, the facts and details thereof;

(c) whether any remedial measures have been suggested by the task force; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and further steps Government propose to take to repair the embankments in sunderbans in West Bengal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. A Task Force has been constituted by the Ministry of Water Resources on 11th June, 2009 under the chairmanship of Shri S.K. Das, Former Chairman, Central Water Commission including eminent engineers and Non-Governmental organizations (NGOs) to assess the damage caused by cyclone 'Aila'; to the embankments in Sunderbans in West Bengal and to suggest short term measures to prevent further breaches in the embankments and flooding of the area and to recommend long-term remedial measures to prevent recurrence of embankment breaches and floods in future.

(c) The Task Force visited the flood affected areas in Sunderbans in West Bengal on June 25-26, 2009 and recommended the State Government to prepare an appropriate scheme for restoration of the washed away and severely damaged embankments, by making river/sea side slopes more flat armoured with brick block pitching or by using ply- propylene based geo bags (filled with local soils) of ultraviolet resistant quality. The Task Force also suggested the providing of sufficient free board over the Highest High Tide Water Level(s) along with a Parapet wall above the embankments with suitable capping so as to prevent over topping by tidal waves during floods. The State Government was further advised to prepare and submit Detailed Project Report covering the entire scope of works to Ganga Flood Control Commission (GFCC) for clearance.

(d) The State Government of West Bengal has started the works of immediate nature at site for the restoration of damaged embankments.

Betting and gambling during IPL matches

115. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that IPL matches have encouraged large scale betting and gambling;

(b) if so, whether Government has work out the amount involved in betting and gambling and agencies which conduct these activities; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by Government to curb these activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL): (a) to (c) This Ministry has not received any complaints regarding betting and gambling during IPL matches. Moreover, BCCI has also informed that they have not received any complaints in this regard.