

ultimate irrigation potential for Andhra Pradesh is about 11.26 million hectare (mha).

(b) As per the available information, total irrigation potential of about 7.37 mha has been created up to September, 2009.

(c) So far, Central assistance of about Rs. 4,617.29 crore has been released to Andhra Pradesh under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme, Rs. 29.95 crore under Scheme for Repair, Renovation and Restoration (RRR) of Water Bodies with external assistance Rs. 33.25 crore under Pilot Project for RRR of Water Bodies and about Rs. 92.98 crore under Command Area Development and Water Management Programme of Ministry of Water Resources for various activities related to accelerating irrigation development/stabilizing created facilities and utilization of created irrigation facilities.

Old dams in India

1654. PROF. P. J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of dams in India that are more than 100 years old;

(b) the steps taken by Government for protection of these old dams;

(c) whether State Government of Kerala has raised the question of safety of the 113 years old Mullaperiyar Dam; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?

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

(a) There are 114 large dams in India which are more than 100 years old as per National Register of Large Dams, 2009.

(b) The responsibility of protection of the dams lies with the concerned State Governments. However, the Union Government has constituted National Committee on Dam Safety to oversee the dam safety activities in various States and suggest improvements in this regard.

(c) and (d) In 1979, reports appeared in Kerala Press about damage to Periyar Dam. The Government of Kerala asked the Government of Tamil Nadu to take immediate steps to strengthen the dam. Chairman, Central Water Commission (CWC) inspected the dam on 25.11.1979 and suggested certain strengthening measures. It was decided to keep the water level at 136 ft. till the strengthening was done. Some strengthening measures were carried out but no agreement on water level could be reached. Several Inter-State meetings at official level could not resolve the issue.

The matter became subjudice with several petitions in the Kerala and Tamil Nadu High Courts. All these cases were transferred to the Hon'ble Supreme Court who heard the matter on 28.4.2000 and asked Minister (WR) to convene a meeting of the Chief Ministers. Minister (WR) convened the Inter-State meeting on 19.5.2000 and as decided in the meeting an Expert Committee under Member (Design & Research), CWC with representative from both the States was constituted to advise on the issue of raising the water level. The Committee in its report of March, 2001 opined that with the strengthening measures already implemented, the water level can be raised from 136 ft. to 142ft. without endangering safety of dam.

The report of the Expert Committee was filed in the Supreme Court and also sent to the State Governments of Kerala and Tamil Nadu. Hon'ble Supreme Court gave a judgement on 27.2.2006 directing the water level of Mulla Periyar dam to be raised to 142 ft. Further, the Government of Tamil Nadu filed an Original Suit No. 3 of 2006 in respect of Mulla Periyar Dam before the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court passed an order on 25.9.2006 stating "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 to the Chief Ministers of States of Tamil Nadu & 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. Thereafter, the Supreme Court in the hearing dated 18.2.2010 has directed Central Government to set up an empowered committee within four weeks which would hear parties to the suit on all issues that will be raised before them and furnish a report, as far as possible, within six months from their constitution. The matter is subjudice.

Irrigation projects under AIBP in Himachal Pradesh

†1655. SHRI SANJAY RAUT : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received some reports regarding small irrigation projects for approval under Phina Singh medium irrigation project and Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) from State Government of Himachal Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details regarding approval of these projects and expenditure to be incurred on these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA) :
(a) and (b) Phina Singh Medium irrigation project of Himachal Pradesh could be considered for

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.