

the construction activities referred to in the news reports could possibly be for construction of some run of river project without diversion of water. The Chinese Foreign Ministry statements of 20th October, 2009, however categorically denied and stated that the reports in Indian media are inconsistent with facts. Inter-ministerial Expert Group and Technical Group monitor the developments so as to ensure that India's interests are fully protected.

(c) to (e) There is no treaty signed between India and China regarding sharing of river waters. However, Government of India had signed an MOU in January 2002 with the Chinese Government on sharing hydrological data of three stations on river Brahmaputra during flood season, which expired in January, 2007. A new MoU on sharing hydrological data on Brahmaputra was signed in June 2008 for a further period of five years. In April 2005, an agreement was signed on provision of hydrological data by China to India during the flood season in respect of one station on river Sutlej. Besides, a joint Expert Level Mechanism (ELM) has been established in 2006 to discuss the cooperation on provision of flood season hydrological data, emergency management and other issues related to trans-boundary rivers between two countries.

#### **Status of irrigation in India**

\*204.SHRI MANGALA KISAN : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

- (a) the status of irrigation in different States and also in the country as a whole as on date;
- (b) the number of new projects of irrigation established till date in Odisha since 2002;
- (c) the reasons due to which irrigation cannot be extended to the expected level even after so many years; and
- (d) the programmes of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) The ultimate irrigation potential of the country as a whole has been assessed to be 139.9 million hectare (mha) and creation of irrigation potential of 106.4 mha up to March 2009 has been reported by the respective State Governments. State-wise details of the irrigation potential created is enclosed as Statement (*See below*).

(b) Since the year 2002, the proposals in respect of 9 major irrigation projects, 5 medium irrigation projects and 4 proposals for extension, renovation and modernization of irrigation projects of Odisha have been considered and accepted by the Technical Advisory Committee of Ministry of

Water Resources on Irrigation, Flood Control and Multipurpose Projects. Government of Odisha has informed that since the year 2002, 8 major and medium irrigation projects have been completed in Odisha and 10 new major and medium irrigation projects have been taken up.

(c) and (d) Government of Odisha has informed that the slow pace of progress of irrigation coverage is mainly due to (i) issues relating to rehabilitation and resettlement including land acquisition, (ii) delay in obtaining statutory clearances such as Forests and Environmental clearances. Government of Odisha has informed that it has prepared a perspective plan for next five years (2009-2014) for sustainable development of water resources with a target to create additional irrigation potential of 5.6 lakh hectare. Further, a large number of irrigation projects have spilled over from Plan to Plan mainly because of financial constraints being faced by the State Governments. The Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programmes (AIBP) was launched in the year 1996 by the Government of India in order to provide financial assistance to States to complete various ongoing projects in the country so that envisaged irrigation potential of the project could be created and thereby extend irrigation to more areas. Government of India has also launched the scheme for Repair, Renovation and Restoration (RRR) of Water Bodies under which the State Governments can seek Central assistance for RRR of Water Bodies.

**Statement**

*State-wise Irrigation Potential Created up to March 2009*

(in million hectare)

Sl.No.	Name of State	Irrigation Potential Created up to March 2009
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	7.36
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	0.13
3.	Assam	1.00
4.	Bihar	7.77
5.	Chhattisgarh	2.58
6.	Goa	0.07
7.	Gujarat	4.46
8.	Haryana	3.86
9.	Himachal Pradesh	0.20
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	1.10
11.	Jharkhand	1.81

1	2	3
12.	Karnataka	2.95
13.	Kerala	3.40
14.	Madhya Pradesh	2.27
15.	Maharashtra	7.10
16.	Manipur	0.21
17.	Meghalaya	0.07
18.	Mizoram	0.02
19.	Nagaland	0.10
20.	Orissa	3.80
21.	Punjab	6.09
22.	Rajasthan	5.52
23.	Sikkim	0.04
24.	Tamil Nadu	4.15
25.	Tripura	0.16
26.	Uttar Pradesh	33.32
27.	Uttaranchal	0.85
28.	West Bengal	5.92
29.	Union Territories	0.06

**Relief for nineteen social castes in Kashmir**

\*205.PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry is aware of the fact that nineteen social castes in Kashmir valley had been identified by the Supreme Court in a judgement which called for relief on par with the scheduled castes as they carried the same stigma of social backwardness; and

(b) if so, the action taken in this behalf?

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI MUKUL WASNIK) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

**New atomic plants in Andhra Pradesh**

\*206.SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :