

year has not started so far. However, there had been deficient Monsoon rainfall in the country as a whole during the year 2009. Central Water Commission (CWC) is monitoring the storage position of 3 reservoirs in Rajasthan. The status of total live storage in these reservoirs at the end of monsoon season (30th September) during 2009, 2008 and average of last 10 years for the same period is given below:

No. of Reservoirs Monitored	Total live storage capacity at full reservoir level.	Total Live Storage (BCM)		
		(Billon cubic metre)		Last 10 years Average
		on 30.9.2009	on 30.9.2008	
3	3.28	1.72	2.41	2.06

In respect of Ground water level, an analysis of ground water level data by Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) for the period May, 2009 and November, 2009, collected from 783 observation wells in Rajasthan indicates that 347 (45%) wells have registered decline in ground water level. Wells showing decline in ground water levels are located mostly in alluvial formations and those showing rise in water levels are located mainly in hard rock formations and in canal command areas.

Water being a State subject, the operation and regulation of water in dams/reservoirs is done by the respective project authorities/State Governments as per their requirements. However, keeping in view the deficient rainfall in the Country, an advisory was issued by Ministry of Water Resources to all the States and Union Territories on 30.06.09 advising them to utilize the available surface water resources prudently and harness the possible ground water resources to tide over any possible shortage.

Hydel Power Projects

3052. SHRI ANIL H. LAD: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has shelved on ecological considerations two hydel power projects on river Bhagirathi- Bhaironghati of 381 mw and Pala Maneri of 480 mw;

(b) whether the Loharinag Pala Hydel Power Project of 600 mw under construction has also been shelved for the same reason;

(c) whether Government appointed expert group decided to classify the entire stretch of 55 km from Gaumukh to Loharinag Pala on river Bhagirathi as an eco-sensitive zone; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) to (d) The issues relates to these projects comes under the purview of Ministry of Power. As per information sent by the Ministry of Power the Status of these projects is as under:-

(i) Loharinagpala HE Project (4x150=600MW):The Loharinagpala HE Project in Uttarkashi district of Uttarakhand is under execution by National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC). The project was accorded concurrence by Central Electricity Authority on 11.08.2004 at an estimated cost Of Rs. 2,417.78 crs., at March, 2004 price level. The environment and forests clearances were accorded on 8.2.2005. The investment approval was given in June 2006 and the work on the project commenced in July, 2006. The expenditure incurred so far is about Rs. 510.00 crs. The project works are under suspension w.e.f 20.2.2009 due to agitation by environmentalists. The Government has directed NTPC to stop the works at the project site.

(ii) Pala Maneri HE Project (4x120=480MW): The Pala Maneri HE Project in Uttarkashi district of Uttarakhand is under implementation by Uttaranchal Jal Vidyut Nigam Ltd. (UJVNL). The project was accorded concurrence by Central Electricity Authority on 23.02.2007 at an estimated cost of Rs. 1,922.80 crs., at December, 2006 price level. The works on the project are yet to be taken up.

(iii) Bhaironghati H.E. Project (3x127 = 381 MW): The Detailed Project Report (DPR) of Bhaironghati H.E. Project Uttaranchal Jal Vidyut Nigam Ltd. (UJVNL) has been returned on 12.02.2008 due to non tie-up of essential inputs/ clearance and insufficient Geological Investigations.

The Government has constituted National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA) to whom the matter has been referred for a decision on all the three aforesaid projects including other aspects. Under the directions of NGRBA, a site visit of all the three projects was done by a high powered team of Secretary (Environment & Forests), Secretary (Power), etc. Based on the site visit and interaction held with locals, public representatives and district authorities, a report has recently been submitted by the team to NGRBA.

Irrigation Projects of Uttar Pradesh

†3053. SHRI NARESH CHANDRA AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of irrigation projects of Uttar Pradesh Government pending with his department under AIBP and National projects;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.