

Ground water resources

4597. SHRIMATI SHOBHANA BHARTIA:

SHRI N.K. SINGH:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a study released by the World Bank has found that a community based approach to groundwater resource management can better protect water resources in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government proposes to take any concrete step to preserve the country's groundwater resources; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) and (b) The World Bank report titled "Deep Wells and Prudence: Towards Pragmatic Action for Addressing Groundwater Overexploitation in India", includes an analysis of the potential of community groundwater management in India and mentions that "State-level engagement is still required to support and nurture a community-based approach". It further states that "State agencies should create an enabling environment, ensuring that community-based initiative receive the support they need to build capacity, take on the lessons of experience, and improve institutional coordination at the local level",

(c) and (d) National Water Policy, 2002 envisages that Management of the water resources for diverse uses should incorporate a participatory approach, by involving not only various Governmental agencies but also the users and other stakeholders such as water users' associations, municipalities and gram panchayats, in an effective and decisive manner in various aspects of planning, design, development and management of the water resources schemes.

In order to preserve water resources and their proper utilization as well as checking of the depletion in the ground water level, the Government of India has initiated several augmentation and regulatory measures which, *inter-alia*, include: (a) launching of schemes for "repair, renovation and restoration of water bodies", "artificial recharge of ground water through dugwells", "demonstrative projects for artificial recharge to ground water aimed at creating awareness about water conservation practices during the year 2007-2010 and (b) circulation of a draft Model Bill to all the States/Union Territories to facilitate regulation and control the development and management of ground water, issuing of directions by Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) to States having 'over-exploited' areas for taking necessary measures to adopt/promote artificial recharge to ground water/rain water harvesting, conservation of ground water and to also include provision for making construction of roof top rain water harvesting structures mandatory under the building bye-laws. Directions also issued to Residential Group

Housing Societies/Institutions/Schools/Hotels/Industrial Establishments for adoption of Roof Top Rain Water harvesting systems in their premises latest by May, 2010. The Central Ground Water Authority has 'notified' 43 areas in 10 States/UTs for regulation of ground water development.

Water related project with Pakistan

†4598. SHRI PRABHAT JHA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any water related project is going on between India and Pakistan;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is a fact that India had, in collaboration with Pakistan, started work on 33 water related projects but only 14 such projects have been completed till date; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) to (d) Except that India is under obligation under the provisions of the Indus Water Treaty 1960 to communicate specified information regarding certain categories of projects to projects, to Pakistan, there is no water related project ongoing or completed, in collaboration with Pakistan.

Height of Narmada dam

4599. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) the reasons for not allowing raising height of Narmada dam by Government; and
- (b) by when Government will decide in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) and (b) The Hon'ble Supreme Court, in its Majority order dated 18.10.2000 in W.P. (Civil) No. 319/1994-Narmada Bachao Andolan V/s Union of India, has directed that the permission to raise the Sardar Sarovar Dam height beyond 90 mts will be given by the Narmada Control Authority (NCA) from time to time after it obtains the clearances from the Relief and Rehabilitation (R&R) Sub Group (including consultation with the three Grievances Redressal Authorities of Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Maharashtra) and the Environment Sub Group. The proposal of Government of Gujarat for further raising of Sardar Sarovar Dam was considered in the 80th meeting of Narmada Control Authority held on 12.08.2008 wherein it was *inter-alia* decided that further construction of Sardar Sarovar Dam Project would be carried out in two phases:—

- (i) Construction of spillway piers to its full height and installation of gates (to be kept in raised position) and;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.