

(c) During the year 1981-82 the progress on the Stage II of the Rajasthan Canal Project was as under:—

1. Length of Main Canal completed 27 km.
2. Length of distributary system completed 55.05 km.

(d) and (e) As per projections made while preparing VIth Plan proposals the schedule of completion of Stage II was fixed as 1985-86, but on account of inadequate allocation of funds by the State the work on this stage of the project is reported to be behind schedule by one year. Progress of the project is being reviewed by the Rajasthan Canal Board from time to time and being monitored by the CWC, Government of India.

Linking of Ganga and Brahmaputra

1541. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:
SHRI N. K. P. SALVE

Will the Minister of IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) what progress has so far been made towards the creation of a national water grid linking Ganga and Brahmaputra and the southern rivers combined to maximise the use of river-water potential;

(b) the details of schemes and measures which are contemplated in that direction during the Sixth Five Year Plan; and

(c) by when such a grid system is likely to be achieved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Irrigation has prepared a National Perspective for Water Resources Development which envisages creation of optimum storages on various rivers wherever feasible and transferring, after meeting the local needs, the surplus flows for utilisation

in deficit regions by constructing inter-connecting links. This perspective comprises two main components namely; (i) Himalayan Rivers Development; and (ii) Peninsular Rivers Development. Initially, it has been decided to take up surveys and investigations of the Peninsular Rivers Development as this does not involve the cooperation of neighbouring countries. For this purpose a separate organisation namely, National Water Development Agency has been constituted.

This scheme for investigation and planning is estimated to cost about Rs. 107 crores. A provision of Rs. 30 crores has been made for the purpose in the Sixth Five Year Plan. The work on the investigation and planning only is expected to be completed in a period of about 7 to 10 years. So far there is no proposal of implementation of the links in the Sixth Plan period.

Linking of Brahmaputra with Ganga is a part of Himalayan Rivers Development and involves cooperation and participation of Bangladesh.

Teesta Barrage Scheme

1542. SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of West Bengal has requested to Central Government for more financial assistance to complete the Teesta barrage scheme.

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what action, if any has been or is being taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) to (c) The State Government has requested