

slated for commencement of operation this year. The site has potential for expansion and has been evaluated for additional two reactors of 700 MWe each. The work can be taken up in XII Plan after in-principle approval of the site.

(c) Kaiga – 1 to 3 are fuelled by indigenous natural uranium which is not available in the required quantity. These reactors are, therefore, currently operated at about 70% of their power rating.

(d) The available fuel is allocated amongst all reactors fuelled by indigenous uranium with a view to reach about 70% average power level in these reactors. The provision for requisite quantity of fuel has been made for the start up of Kaiga 4 in 2010 which is expected to improve the energy scenario in Karnataka.

Visit of expert team at landslide dam in Bhutan

*371. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 3007 given in the Rajya Sabha on 30 July, 2009 and state:

(a) whether India and Bhutan Expert Team visited the landslide dam (Tsaticchu) site;

(b) the number of times the joint group of experts met since 2008;

(c) the outcome to those meetings; and

(d) whether Government is aware of the fact that this year too, North Bengal is facing erosion and flood due to rivers originating in Bhutan?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) The India and Bhutan Expert team visited landslide dam (Tsaticchu) in Bhutan on December 18-23, 2006. The team comprised of officers from Central Water Commission, Water Resources Department of Government of Assam and Geological Survey of India, Govt. of India. The Expert team in their report have *inter-alia* recommended that the landslide dam appeared to be stable at that time. The quantity of water in the lake was also assessed to be very small and therefore, the threat of flood to the downstream areas including Indian Territory was negligible. Subsequently, on the request of the State Government of Assam in the year 2008 the matter was taken up as an agenda item during the

2nd meeting of Joint Group of Experts (JGE) held at New Delhi on 26-27 February 2008 and it was *inter-alia* agreed that another joint visit to Tsatichhu landslide dam may be undertaken in June 2008. However, the visit could not take place due to non-finalization of mutually convenient dates during 2008. Subsequently, no adverse report about further failure of landslide dam at Tsatichhu lake having adverse impact on downstream was received from Government of Assam and any other agency. Govt. of Assam has informed that no adverse report was received from any quarter about the failure of the landslide dam causing devastation in down stream after the year 2008.

(b) and (c) The Joint Group of Experts (JGE) on Flood Management between the Government of India and Royal Government of Bhutan held its last meeting during February 26-27, 2008 at New Delhi. During the meeting of JGE, the issues related to bilateral cooperation in management of floods on rivers originating from Bhutan including the preliminary report of JTT was discussed. It was decided to reconstitute the JTT with the modified Team of Reference (ToR) to include some rivers/streams to be identified by JTT based on their field visit, flowing from Bhutan into Assam, for further studies/recommendations for remedial measures. It was also recommended that the JTT should recommend specific studies required for qualitative and quantitative sediment assessment for river. Further during the meeting, it was decided to undertake another joint visit by India and Bhutan Expert Teams to landslide dam (Tsatichhu) site in June 2008.

(d) Govt. of India is fully aware of the problems being faced by North Bengal due to erosion and floods on rivers originating from Bhutan. As per the Flood Forecasting Service rendered by CWC, the rivers Torsa, Jaldhaka, Raidak-I experienced low to moderate flood situation in North Bengal during the current year.

Laila Cyclone

*372. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Laila Cyclone hit the coastal areas of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, etc. on 21st May 2010;