

- v. For promoting awareness and education among the stake holders in ground water sector, awareness programmes are organized under the Central Plan schemes "Ground Water Management & Regulation" and Information Education and Communication (IEC) of Ministry of Water Resources;
- vi. Implementation of schemes for demonstrative Projects on Rain Water Harvesting and Artificial Recharge to Ground Water under the scheme of Ground Water Management & Regulation, Artificial Recharge of Ground Water through Dugwells, Repair, Renovation and Restoration (RRR) of Water Bodies and demonstrations under Farmers Participatory Action Research Programme during XI Plan period.
- vii. Institution of Bhoomijal Samvardhan Puraskars and National Water Award to encourage adoption of innovative practices of ground water augmentation;
- viii. Constitution of Advisory Council on Artificial Recharge of Ground Water; and
- ix. A Web Enabled Ground Water Information System (WEGWIS) for dissemination of ground water related information to all stake holders including users.

(b) to (c) The Ministry of Water Resources does not maintain data on installation of rain harvesting system in Government buildings. It is the responsibility of the State Governments to plan, fund and execute schemes in this regard as per their own priority. However, roof top rain water harvesting structures were implemented by Central Ground Water Board in 233 Government buildings in different parts of the country under the pilot projects on rain water harvesting and artificial recharge during the VIII, IX and X Plan periods.

#### **Task Force to Inter-Link Rivers**

2860. SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a task force was constituted to inter-link rivers in the country;
- (b) the findings of task force and the reasons for which they were not implemented; and

(c) the number of persons likely to be benefited if the recommendation of task force are accepted?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) and (b) A Task Force under the Chairmanship of Shri Suresh. P. Prabhu, the then Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha) was constituted during December, 2002 on Inter Linking of Rivers (ILR). The recommendations of Task Force are given in Statement (*See below*). The Task Force completed its work and submitted Action Plan – I during April, 2003 giving outline of time schedule for completion of Feasibility Reports. Detailed Project Reports, Estimated Cost, Implementation Schedule, concrete benefits and Advantages of the project. Action plan II giving alternative options for funding and execution of the projects and suggestion on methods for cost recovery etc. was also submitted during April, 2004. Task Force on Interlinking of Rivers (TF – ILR) was wound up *w.e.f.* 31.12.2004 on completion of its mandated task. A Special Cell has been constituted to look after the residual routine work of the TF – ILR and for taking follow up action on the Interlinking of rivers Programme under the Ministry of Water Resources (MOWR).

Appropriate follow up action has been taken on the recommendations given by Task Force in respect of Guidance on norms of appraisal, bringing about speedy consensus amongst the States and prioritization of links. The stage has not come for taking decision on the remaining recommendations of the Task Force.

(c) The number of persons likely to be benefited would be known only after completion of the Detailed Project Reports of all the link projects proposed under ILR scheme.

***Statement***

*Recommendations of Task Force*

- (i) Task Force got prepared Terms of Reference (TOR) for preparation of Detailed Project Reports (DPR) through M/s Engineers India Ltd. (EIL) for providing guidance on norms of appraisal of individual project.
- (ii) On the issue of suitable mechanism for bringing out speedy consensus amongst the States, Task Force has suggested Meeting at the highest level to agree after the technical-level

discussions with emphasis that outstanding issues should be such that they can be addressed in DPR stage.

- (iii) The TF – ILR has stated that the peninsular links are the right component to begin with. Top priority links identified by TF – ILR are:
  - (a) Ken – Betwa link UP & MP
  - (b) Parbati – Kalisindh – Chambal link MP & Rajasthan
- (iv) On this basis of report of IIM, Ahmedabad, a two tier institutional/organizational setup has been suggested for the implementation of the programme on Interlinking of Rivers (ILR) along with a Council – "National River Water Development Council (NRWDC)" to act as the apex body of the proposed setup. The National Authority for Interlinking of Rivers (NAILR) is proposed as the first tier of the proposed two tier organizational structure and the regional or branch offices or subsidiaries would act as "Link Instrument" and are proposed as the second tier of the organizational setup.
- (b) TF – ILR consulted ICICI for funding options. ICICI has proposed that funding should be partly through public, public-private and private inputs. The exact requirement on realistic basis will be available only after the preparation of Detailed project Report (DPR) of all the links.

Based on NWDA studies National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) has estimated that the cost of ILR project would be Rs. 4,44,331.20 crore which is 21-22% lower than the present rough estimate. NCAER is of the view that the programme would take nearly 35 – 40 years. However, with use of modern construction and Remote Sensing techniques, the programme at best could be completed in 25 years.

- (vi) A Working Group on International dimensions constituted by Task Force on ILR has also suggested that at the present juncture, it is too early, to pursue the matter further at high political levels with the Nepal government. Regarding Bangladesh, it has been suggested that Dhaka will continue to raise the ILR issue in Joint River Commission and possibly in other bilateral fora. India should respond by reiterating the line taken in the JRC *i.e.*, ILR is a concept, not a single project.