

[23 May, 2006]

RAJYA SABHA

Bangladesh's opposition to linking of rivers

4103. SHRI DARA SINGH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Bangladesh has opposed the Central Government's proposal to link the rivers;

(b) whether they contend that the linking of rivers may lead to the complete flow of water to India only; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the steps proposed to be taken by Government to resolve the issue with Bangladesh?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ): (a) Bangladesh has raised objection to the Himalayan component of inter-linking of river projects at several forum.

(b) and (c) Question does not arise as the interlinking of Himalayan rivers are still at a conceptual stage.

Completion of irrigation projects in Rajasthan

4104. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of irrigation projects are running behind their original schedule as on date;

(b) if so, whether the Government are considering to invite participation to complete such irrigation projects in the States particularly in Rajasthan;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the remedial steps proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (PROF. SAIF-UD-DIN SOZ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Irrigation is a State subject and the planning, execution, funding, operation and maintenance of irrigation projects are primarily the responsibility of the State Governments based on their priorities. There is no proposal under consideration of Ministry of Water Resources to invite private participation to complete irrigation projects in the States.

(c) Does not arise.