

National Water-shed Development Projects in Rain-fed Areas, Watershed Development Projects in Shifting Cultivation Areas also help in ground water recharge to some extent.

Central Government assists the State Governments in implementation of rural drinking water supply schemes by providing technical and financial assistance through the centrally sponsored Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) of Department of Drinking Water Supply, Ministry of Rural Development. The budget outlay for ARWSP has been increased from Rs. 2900 crore in 2004-05 to Rs. 4050 crore in 2005-06.

(d) and (e) The following allocations have been made by the Department of Drinking Water Supply, Ministry of Rural Development for Andhra Pradesh for the year 2005-06 under various components of ARWSP.

	(Rs. in crore)	
	Allocation	Release
ARWSP (NORMAL)	209.02	104.51
ARWSP (DDP)	1.30	0.65
ARWSP (SWAJAL DHARA)	30.45	Nil

In addition, Rs. 4.75 crore were released to Andhra Pradesh under 5% Calamity Relief component of ARWSP to meet the drought situation during the current year.

Completion of river linking projects in Tamil Nadu

2337. SHRI E.M. SUDARSANA NATCHIAPPAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of progress made with regard to rivers linking project, till date in Tamil Nadu;

(b) the amount spent on the project till date; and

(c) by when, the entire work to linking of rivers is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The three

inter basin water transfer links under Peninsular Component viz. (i) Pamba-Achankovil-Vaippar, (ii) Pennar (Somasila)-Palar-Cauvery (Grand Anicut) and (iii) Cauvery (Kattalai)-Vaigai-Gundar envisage benefit to the State of Tamil Nadu. Feasibility Studies of all the three links have been completed by National Water Development Agency (NWDA).

(b) Since the inception of NWDA in 1982, Rs. 165 crore has been spent on the Inter Basin Water Transfer project upto March, 2005.

(c) The completion of inter basin water transfer projects depend upon consensus between the concerned States and the consent of the neighbouring countries.

National fund for rain water harvesting

†2338. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have prepared any Master Plan with 24,500 crore rupees for rain harvesting and refilling the ground water artificially thereby throughout the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the action taken by Government so far in this regard;

(d) whether Government are considering to set up a National fund for implementation of this ambitious project, in cooperation with private sector/NRIs/Industrial Groups;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, whether Government would prepare a time-bound plan for execution of this ambitious plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) The Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) has prepared a report entitled "Master Plan for Artificial Recharge to Ground Water", which envisages recharge of 36453 Million Cubic Metre volume of surplus monsoon run-off, through construction of 39.25 lakh artificial recharge and roof top rain water harvesting structures. The estimated cost of this Master Plan

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.