

(b) if so, how many hectares have been brought under micro irrigation drip/sprinkler since its inception and

(c) how much water saving has accrued, and whether surface water/ground water use efficiency has improved thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA) : (a) Yes, Sir. A Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Micro Irrigation was implemented by the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture in the country except North-Eastern (NE) and Himalayan States from January, 2006. The scheme is continuing in mission mode since June, 2010 as the "National Mission on Micro Irrigation" (NMMI). Resource under NMMI is now available to all States of the Union.

(b) Since inception of the scheme, 26.37 lakh hectare has been covered so far. Out of this, 12.40 lakh hectare is under drip irrigation and remaining 13.97 lakh hectare is under sprinkler irrigation.

(c) The water use efficiency is enhanced by 30% - 40%, as per findings of NABARD consultancy Services Ltd. (NABCOM).

Water supply to Rajasthan

†3562. SHRI ASHK ALI TAK : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that, under the provisions of section 79 of Punjab Reorganisation Act, 1966 the control of Ropar, Harike and Ferozpur head works was to be transferred to Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB) by Punjab;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Rajasthan is not getting full supply of water because the control of irrigation head works is with Punjab and this is also affecting the canal system; and

(c) whether Government proposes to hold an early meeting to resolve this problem and if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA) : (a) Section 79(1)(c) of the Punjab Reorganization Act, 1966 provides for the administration, maintenance and operation of the irrigation head works at Ropar, Harike and Ferozpur.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) Periodical supplies to Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan are decided in the monthly meetings of the Technical Committee of Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB), taking into account the water releases from Thein Dam via Madhopur-Beas Link by Punjab, As informed by Government of Rajasthan, short and erratic supplies are passed on by Punjab to Rajasthan. As per Government of Punjab, it makes releases to Rajasthan as per the decisions taken in the meetings of the Technical Committee of the BBMB and any excess/short supply at Harike Head Works is shared in the same ratio as decided by BBMB on pro rata basis. According to BBMB, Rajasthan has received shortages during some period due to fluctuations in supplies from Ranjitsagar dam.

(c) BBMB, constituted by the Central Government, has already been advising its partner States to ensure the delivery of agreed releases of water among them.

Project of inter-linking of rivers

3563. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government has cleared the project of inter-linking of rivers in the country;
- (b) if so, the present status of the project;
- (c) whether suggestions/projects have been sent by the State Governments;
- (d) if not, what are the reasons therefor; and
- (e) what are the steps Government is taking for early starting of this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA) : (a) and (b) The Ministry of Water Resources (MOWR) (erstwhile Ministry of Irrigation) had formulated a National Perspective Plan (NPP) for Water Resources Development in 1980 envisaging inter-basin transfer of water from surplus basins to deficit basins/areas which comprises two components, namely, Himalayan Rivers Development Component and Peninsular Rivers Development Component. The National Water Development Agency (NWDA) was set up under the MOWR in 1982 for carrying out various technical studies to establish the feasibility of the proposals of NPP and to give concrete shape to them. Based on various studies conducted, NWDA has identified