

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) Yes, Sir. It is a fact that the Sone Canal system is the oldest system of irrigation in Bihar. The system has been functioning since the year 1876.

(b) Sone Basin water is to be distributed among Member-States as per Bansagar Agreement signed by the then co-basin States of Madhya Pradesh (MP), Uttar Pradesh (UP) and Bihar in 1973 in which annual yield of river Sone and its tributaries was assessed as 14.25 Million Acre Feet (MAF). Out of which 5.25 MAF was allocated to MP, 1.25 MAF to UP and 7.75 MAF to Bihar.

(c) Ministry of Water Resources set up a Joint Operation Committee (JOC) for Rihand reservoir consisting of members from UP, Bihar and Central Electricity authority (CEA) under the Chairmanship of Member (WP&P), Central Water Commission (CWC) for formulation of guidelines for operation of Rihand reservoir, after assessing the water availability, irrigation requirements in Bihar and Power to be generated with a view to meet the requirements of both the States. The meetings of JOC are convened every year after withdrawal of monsoon to recommend the release from Rihand reservoir based on water position in Rihand reservoir at the end of monsoon, irrigation demand of Bihar and hydropower generation plan of UP.

Utilisation of river water in Chhattisgarh

†2939. SHRI SHIVPRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to use the running water of rivers of Chhattisgarh for drinking, irrigation and industrial purposes;

(b) whether any necessary step has been taken to stop the water flow in the rivers; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) to (c) Water being a State subject, the State Government of Chhattisgarh has taken necessary steps for planning and implementation of water resources projects for drinking, irrigation, industrial purposes, etc., from the water of rivers in Chhattisgarh.

Ashok Chawla Panel on scarce water resources

2940. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK:

SHRI SANJAY RAUT:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received the recommendations/suggestions by the

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Ashok Chawla panel to check exploitation and scarcity of water across the country; and

(b) if so, the details of the recommendations/suggestions made by this panel and Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) and (b) The Committee on Allocation of Natural Resources (CANR) under the chairmanship of Shri Ashok Chawla submitted its report on 31st May, 2011. The major recommendations of CANR on water are given in the Statement (See below). The recommendations of CANR have been referred to Group of Ministers.

Statement

Major recommendations of the Committee on Allocation of Natural Resources (CANR) on water

- (i) The Committee sees an urgent need to have a comprehensive national legislation on water. This can be either done through bringing water under the Concurrent List and then framing the appropriate legislation; or, by obtaining consensus from a majority of the States that such a "framework law" is necessary and desirable as a Union enactment. The legal options in this regard need to be examined by the Ministry of Water Resources. The national legislation should clarify a common position on a number of issues, e.g., need to consider all water resources as a conjunctive, unified whole; water as a common property resource; principles of allocations and pricing and so on. The framework legislation should recognize that pollution also leads to conjunctive use of water, which makes the resource unusable for other purposes.
- (ii) In the meantime, the Committee recommends amending the River Boards' Act, 1956 and include groundwater in its ambit, while assigning the River Boards Act (RBA) a managerial role in management of water resources. The process of seeking political consensus from States for making the Act more effective should be taken up pro-actively by the Union Government Ministry of Water Resources.
- (iii) The Committee recommends aquifer level mapping, alongwith hydro-geological studies, and pilot projects to be initiated in different settings to address the problems of groundwater management urgently. Each of these pilots should cover an area of 5,000 to 10,000 hectares or boundaries of an aquifer, whichever is less. Comprehensive programmes of aquifer management can be built up based on these studies, in respect of these pilots. For better results, these pilots should be designed so that they converge seamlessly into ongoing schemes like the NREGA, IWMP, and ongoing drinking water and sanitation projects. The pilots should take into account community awareness and

participation, self-regulation of groundwater enhancement of coverage of water saving methods, including changes in cropping pattern and so on.

- (iv) Finally, the Committee suggests that the focus on command area management should be restored and merger of Command Area Development (CAD) programmes with the AIBP schemes can be contemplated in this regard.

Projects for artificial recharging of ground water

2941. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has asked to make projects for artificial recharging of ground water, revival of tanks/ponds, etc.;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether Government proposes to finance the implementation of these schemes;
- (d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the amount allocated/released for this purpose;
- (e) whether the Central Water Commission (CWC) and the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) have also made and implemented any scheme for artificial recharging of ground water in certain areas of Andhra Pradesh;
- (f) if so, the details thereof; and
- (g) the steps taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) and (b) During Eleventh Plan Central Ground Water Board under Ministry of Water Resources implemented demonstrative projects on rain water harvesting and artificial recharge to ground water under the central sector scheme of Ground Water Management and Regulation during Eleventh Plan, with an outlay of Rs. 100 crores for which States were asked to submit the proposals.

Government of India has also approved two schemes for Repair, Renovation and Restoration (RRR) of Water Bodies, one with external assistance with outlay of Rs. 1500 crore and the other one with domestic support with outlay of Rs. 1250 crore.

(c) and (d) State-wise details of projects approved, their cost and funds released for demonstrative projects on rainwater harvesting and artificial recharge to ground water are given in Statement-I (*See below*). State-wise details of fund released under the Scheme of Repair Renovation and Restoration of Water Bodies is given in Statement-II (*See below*).

(e) to (g) Central Ground Water Board has implemented pilot/demonstrative projects on rain water harvesting and artificial recharge during Eighth, Ninth, Tenth and Eleventh Plan in Andhra Pradesh. Project-wise details of funds released to the implementing agencies in the State are given in Statement-III.