

(c) and (d) While recommending the setting up of a Water Regulatory Authority in each State, the Thirteenth Finance Commission observed that 'injudicious inter-sectoral and intra-sectoral distribution of water amongst various categories of water users, low water use efficiency, fragmented approach to water resources planning and development, low water user charges and meagre recovery are some of the major problems associated with the management of water resources in the country. A statutory autonomous institution at the state level could help in addressing these issues'. Government of India has accepted the recommendations.

Agreement with Nepal for floods control of Kosi river

3406. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA :

SHRI SANJAY RAUT :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

- (a) whether it is a fact that India and Nepal are working together to control floods due to overflow of Kosi river;
- (b) if so, the details of the agreement in this regard; and
- (c) what is the time-frame agreed between the two countries for controlling floods?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA) : (a) and (b) Government of India maintains the flood protection works of Kosi Barrage in Nepal through the State Government of Bihar. During the 1st meeting of India-Nepal Joint Ministerial Commission on Water Resources (JMCWR), JMCWR recommended that the maintenance of 15 Km length of eastern Kosi embankment presently being maintained by the Government of Nepal, may also be taken up by the Government of India. In addition, Sapta Kosi High Dam Multipurpose Project on river Kosi in Nepal, is planned, which on implementation will also mitigate floods due to Kosi river.

(c) Detailed Project Report (DPR) of Sapta Kosi High Dam Multipurpose Project is scheduled to be completed by February, 2013.

Utilisation of water

†3407. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI :

SHRI RAMCHANDRA PRASAD SINGH :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

- (a) whether it is a fact that one of the reasons for water scarcity in the country is the improper utilisation of water in the country;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

- (b) if so, the Government's reaction thereto;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that huge amount of unutilised water is flowing into the sea; and
- (d) if so, the annual average volume of water that flows into the sea and Government's plan for its proper utilisation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA) : (a) and (b) Water scarcity in the country is due to seasonal, geographical and annual variations in availability of water and lack of adequate storage in addition to improper utilization of water. The Central Government supplements the efforts of State Governments for better utilization of water resources through irrigation, water supply, etc.

(c) and (d) As per present assessment, the average annual water availability in the country is 1869 BCM. Further, it has been estimated by Central Water Commission (CWC), in the year 2009 that about 450 BCM of surface water and by Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) in the year 2009 that about 243 BCM of ground water are being utilized for various purposes. The rest of the water could be considered to be flowing down to sea. Government of India provides technical and financial assistance to the State Governments for increasing storage as well as utilization of water for irrigation, domestic and industrial uses, etc.

Ground water level in Punjab

3408. SHRI AVINASH RAI KHANNA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

- (a) whether it is a fact that Punjab is using its water resources to meet the demand of wheat or rice in the country;
- (b) whether it is also a fact that the level of ground water is going down day by day in the State due to this reason;
- (c) whether Government would provide royalty on water to Punjab so that the farmer can be encouraged to produce wheat and rice and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (d) if so, the details of parameters adopted therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As per ground water resource assessment carried out jointly by Central Ground Water Board and State Ground Water Organizations (as on 2009) out of the total annual ground water withdrawal of 34.66 billion cubic metres (bcm), 33.97 is estimated to be utilized for irrigation. The stage of ground water development has