

14 links under Peninsular Component and 2 links (Indian Portion) under Himalayan Component have been completed.

The Interlinking of Rivers programme under NPP is being pursued in a consultative manner with the consensus and cooperation of the concerned states.

The proposal to bring water in the Union/Concurrent list was examined by the two Commissions on Centre-State relations chaired by Justice R.S. Sarkaria and Justice M.M. Punchhi respectively. The proposal to bring water in Central List from State list did not find favour with either of the two commissions.

Interlinking of Rivers

3394. SHRI BALWINDER SINGH BHUNDER : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Supreme Court has given direction to the Central Government to implement the ambitious river linking plan in time bound manner;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) Government's reaction thereon; and
- (d) how Government intends to implement the direction and what is the plans in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA) : (a) and (b) The Supreme Court in its order dated 27.02.2012 has directed the Union of India and particularly Ministry of Water Resources to forth with constitute a committee to be called 'Special Committee for Inter-Linking of Rivers'.

The Supreme Court in the order mentioned that "time is a very material factor in the effective execution of the Interlinking of Rivers project". It also mentioned that "the committee shall take firm steps and fix a definite timeframe to lay down the guidelines for completion of the feasibility reports or other reports and shall ensure the completion of projects so that the benefits accrue within reasonable time and cost".

(c) and (d) The Supreme Court order dated 27.02.2012 is under examination of the Ministry is consultation with ministry of Law & Justice for further appropriate action.

Contaminated Ground Water in Assam

3395. SHRIMATI NAZNIN FARUQUE : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

- (a) whether, as per the recent study report of UNICEF, 18 districts of Assam have become prone to arsenic and fluoride contamination affected ground water;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, districtwise; and

(c) whether any survey has been carried out to find out the reasons for increasing trends of arsenic and fluoride in the State and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA) : (a) As per information received from the Chief Engineer (PHE), (P), Govt. of Assam, a UNICEF study has reported arsenic contamination in ground water from parts of 18 districts and fluoride contamination from parts of 5 districts.

(b) District wise details as reported by the Govt. of Assam are given below :

Sl.No.	District	No. of affected habitations	
		Arsenic	Fluoride
1.	Baksha	44	
2.	Barpeta	119	
3.	Bongaigaon	47	
4.	Cachar	139	
5.	Darrang	105	
6.	Dhemaji	43	
7.	Dhubri	81	
8.	Goalpara	14	
9.	Golaghat	278	4
10.	Hailakandi	28	
11.	Jorhat	364	
12.	Karbi Anglong		140
13.	Kampru		36
14.	Karimganj	66	3
15.	Morigaon	30	
16.	N. Lakhimpur	54	
17.	Nagaon	1	358
18.	Nalbari	238	
19.	Sibsagar	109	
20.	Sonitpur	87	

Total No. of habitations affected by high Arsenic in ground water = 1847

Total No. of habitations affected by high Fluoride in ground water = 541

(c) No such study has been carried out yet by Central Ground Water Board or the State Govt.

Filling of Backlog Vacancies

3396. SHRI AMBETH RAJAN : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the provisions inserted *vide* the 81st Amendment to the Constitution is being followed in the Ministry for all groups *i.e.* Group A to Group D;
- (b) whether backlog vacancies are notified and filled up every year;
- (c) the reasons, if any, for not following the procedure; and
- (d) the details of backlog vacancies filled during the last five years?

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

- (c) Does not arise.
- (d) The number of backlog vacancies filled during the last five years is given below :

Category	No. of posts filled
SC	127
ST	90
OBC	175

Storage Capacity of Water

3397. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the existing storage capacity is far less as compared to the availability of water through rain and the rivers;
- (b) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and
- (c) the percentage of storage capacity *viz-a-viz* the total availability of water?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA) : (a) As per available information, the live storage capacity created in the country is 253.388 Billion Cubic Meter (BCM) whereas the average annual water availability in the country is estimated as 1869 BCM.