

(b) whether the Central Government plans to constitute a board like that of the Central National Water Authority for this purpose so that issue of the river water could be under the Union List and not under the State List and inhuman disputes and politicization of river water sharing could be avoided; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES
(SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

12.00 hrs.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION

Diversion of funds collected for water harvesting

7. SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that rainwater harvesting funds collected from citizens by urban local bodies to construct Rainwater Harvesting Structures (RWHS) has been unspent or diverted in Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL):
(a) As per information received from Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board (HMWSSB), the HMWSSB is collecting rain water harvesting charges from prospective applicants to construct the rain water harvesting structures at their respective premises and no funds have been diverted. Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC) have informed that charges are being collected towards rain water harvesting from the applicants while according permissions @ Rs. 8/- per Sq. m on built up area as per the schedule of rates approved by the council of GHMC *vide* Resolution No. 94, dated 30.06.2008. These charges are collected under specific Head of Account and question of diversion of funds does not arise. The amount so collected will be utilized for renovation of old structures as well as construction of new structures.

GHMC has so far constructed 215 rain water harvesting pits in several places such as parks, Play Grounds, Community Halls, Schools, Colleges, Offices, etc., to improve the Ground water table. Further, while granting building permissions for private buildings, GHMC is insisting on construction of rain water harvesting pits and occupancy certificates are issued duly verifying the same.

(b) In view of above, question does not arise.

SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM: Sir, this is a very important question because under the WALTA...

MR. CHAIRMAN: Now all questions are important. Just put your question.

SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM: I agree with you, Sir. This is much more important because it deals with water, land and trees. That is why I said that special emphasis has to be laid on this question.

Sir, under the WALTA, the Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board has collected around Rs. 20 crores to construct Rainwater Harvesting Structures between May, 2005 and February, 2012, and spent only Rs. 88 lakhs. But the answer given is that no funds were diverted and the question of giving the details does not arise. I would like to know from the hon. Minister what the facts are. When a question about the collection and spending is being asked, how is this answer given without verifying the facts? I would like to know how much is the amount collected, how much is the amount spent and for what purpose it is spent.

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, there is no denying the fact that the question is, indeed, a very important one. But the fact is, and I wonder how it has happened so, that the question has been directed to this Ministry. The question, in fact, relates to the Municipal Corporation of Hyderabad and also the Water Supply and Sewerage Board in Hyderabad. But, nevertheless, this question was admitted and, therefore, I will endeavour to answer this question. I have collected the information from the concerned two bodies. The facts that have come to my notice are that there are charges. The Municipal Corporation charges eight rupees per square metre for the plot area before sanctioning the building plan and thereafter insist on that. That amount is utilised elsewhere for constructing Rainwater Harvesting Structures in the city, in the parks and other places. They have been

doing it reasonably well. There is a specific head, a separate account, for this and the money can't be diverted. That is what I want to assure the hon. Member. The entire money may not have been spent. But we must not really be in haste to spend the amount because, then, we will end up wasting that amount. But as far as the sewerage water and sewerage board is concerned, the hon. Member is right. A good bit of amount which was collected, I find, has not been spent. But it has not been diverted. There is a clear distinction between diversion and not being spent. The Sewerage and Water Board under the WALTA is supposed to be spending that amount in constructing Rainwater Harvesting Structures within the premises of the concerned persons. They engage contractors for that purpose and execute that work. On my enquiry, I find that that has not been fully done. But I have been assured and I have the latest correspondence of today itself from the Managing Director of the Hyderabad Metropolitan Water Supply and Sewerage Board giving the details thereof. I will be further writing also to the hon. Chief Minister on this point. They have given me the break-up. The hon. Member is quite close to the figure. Around Rs. 20 crores is still to be spent by them. But they are telling me that they are in the process of doing that work.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Do you have any other supplementary?

SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM: I have another supplementary. The hon. Minister has said that it is not 100 per cent related to his Ministry. But there is a supplementary question dealing with water resources also. The estimated cost for bringing 10 tmc of water from Godavari river to Hyderabad city is around Rs. 3,500 crores. Similarly, to bring 5 tmc of water from Krishna river to the city to meet the drinking water needs is around Rs. 1,500 crores. Sir, the Hyderabad Municipal Area, including the Greater Hyderabad Municipal Area covers around 650 sq. kilometres of area. The average rainfall is around 750 millimetres, which gives 15 TMC of water. Would the hon. Minister use all that money to augment construction of rain water harvesting structures? At least, one-thirds of the area would save 5 TMC of water. Would the hon. Minister be kind enough to elaborate on the plans he has for the Hyderabad Metropolitan City?

SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL: Sir, besides the Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme and other programmes, the primary function of the Ministry of Water Resources is to promote the concept of rain water harvesting and ground water recharge. That is where our mandate stops. I can assure the hon. Member

that as far as this Ministry is concerned we would try to extend whatever possible support the State Government under various programmes related to the Ministry of Water Resources. But, Sir, as far as the question which the hon. Member has raised is concerned, I would again give this information to him which has been supplied to me. The Hyderabad Metro Water Supply and Sewerage Board is providing 340 million gallons of water per day of piped water supply from surface water resources. This corporation also has 10 adjoining municipalities, Osmania University, Secunderabad Cantonment and 10 enroute villages along the National Highways No. 9. This includes 180 million gallons of water per day from the Krishna river source located 145 kilometres away from the city. Apart from this, there is another 340 MGD piped water supply from surface water. Sir, I shall pass on the details to the hon. Member.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Thank you. Short Notice Question is over. Now, Papers to be laid on the Table.

(THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (PROF. P. J. KURIEN) in the Chair)

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

Outcome Budget of the Ministry of Water Resources

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): Sir, I lay on the Table, a copy (in English and Hindi) of the Outcome Budget, for the year 2012-13, in respect of the Ministry of Water Resources. [Placed in Library, *See* No. L.T. 6450/15/12]

I Reports and Accounts (2009-10 and 2010-11) of ILI, New Delhi and related papers.

II Reports of Law Commission of India.

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND THE MINISTER OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): Sir, I lay on the Table, a copy each (in English and Hindi) of the following papers:—

- I. (i) (a) Fifty-third Annual Report and Accounts of the Indian Law Institute (ILI), New Delhi, for the year 2009-10, together with the Auditor's Report on the Accounts.