

(d) the quantum of water available in the country and how much of it is polluted and unsafe for drinking?

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

(b) With a view to meet the growing demands of water, various measures are taken by the respective State Governments for bringing the available water resources within the category of utilizable resources to the maximum possible extent which include creation of storages, restoration of water bodies, rainwater harvesting, artificial recharge to ground water, adoption of better irrigation practices, etc. The Central Government supplements the efforts of the State Government through technical and financial assistance.

(c) and (d) The average annual water availability of water in the country has been assessed 1869 billion cubic meters (BCM). Due to topographical, hydrological and other constraints, the utilizable water has been estimated to be 1123 BCM comprising of 690 BCM of surface water and 433 BCM or replenishable ground water. As per the information provided by Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation, out of the total 16,64,186 rural habitations in India, 99,380 habitations are affected with water quality issues.

The Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation administers through the States the centrally sponsored scheme, National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) for providing financial and technical assistance to the States to supplement their efforts to provide drinking water to the rural areas. The State Governments are vested with powers to plan, execute and implement drinking water supply schemes under NRDWP. Rural Water Supply Schemes are approved by the State Level Scheme Sanctioning Committee.

Dam safety

4180. SHRI JESUDASU SEELAM: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has conducted inspections to ensure that all the dams in the country are safe;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of steps taken to ensure that all the dams including the Mullaperiyar dam is resistant to earthquakes;

(d) whether there are any legislations on dam safety; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, whether Government proposes to bring a legislation on dam safety?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) to (c) The responsibility for safety inspection rests with the project owners, which are mostly the State Governments or their public sector undertakings. Such inspections, in respect of each large dam under an owner, is required to be carried out twice in a year (i.e. pre-monsoon and post-monsoon), and the inspection report is required to be consolidated by the Dam Safety Organisation (DSO) of the concerned owner.

The responsibility of protection of the dams lies with the concerned project authority/State Governments. However, the Union Government has constituted National Committee on Dam Safety to render technical advice on the dam safety activities in various States and suggests improvements in this regard.

As far as the Mullaperiyar dam is concerned, An Empowered Committee on the Mullaperiyar Dam issue, constituted on the directions of the Supreme Court to look into the issues raised before it, has examined the issue of safety of Mullaperiyar dam (including seismic safety) through expert agencies. The Empowered Committee submitted its final report in the month of April, 2012. The matter is subjudice.

(d) and (e) The Central Government has introduced "Dam Safety Bill" in August, 2010 in Parliament.

Water storage capacity

4181.DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the present water storage capacity, State-wise;

(b) the per capita water storage capacity, its comparison to developed, developing and neighbouring countries;