

**Revamping Brahmaputra Board**

607. SHRI KUMAR DEEPAK DAS: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any proposal for revamping of ailing Brahmaputra Board;

(b) whether Government would take initiative to make necessary amendment to include the Minister as the Chairman of the Board and make the Brahmaputra Board self sustainable; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) Yes, Sir. Revamping of Brahmaputra Board is dependent on amendment of Brahmaputra Board Act 1980 which is under active consideration in this ministry.

(b) and (c) At present there is no such proposal to include the Minister as the Chairman of the Brahmaputra Board and make the Brahmaputra Boards self sustainable by making amendment in the Act. As there is already a High Power Review Board under the Chairmanship of Minister of Water Resources, Govt. of India with the Chief Ministers or nominee of the Chief Ministers of the rank of Cabinet Minister of North Eastern States as members to review the status of works of the Brahmaputra Board.

**Water scarcity**

608. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a survey carried out by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry under the title "Water use in Indian industry" revealed that water shortage would be the next challenge for the country after power;

(b) whether it is also a fact that in the coming years it would hamper the growth of industries like power, chemicals, textiles, pharma and cement plants; and

(c) if so, what steps the Ministry is taking to redress the water scarcity issue?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) and (b) Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) conducted a survey on "Water use in Indian industry" The findings of the survey (September, 2011) have brought out that availability of water is becoming an area of concern for the industries, over the past few years access to water has become difficult for industries and the problem is likely to increase in the coming years and that this is a major worry for industries belonging to the sectors like thermal power plants, chemicals, textiles, cement and manufacturing.

(c) Government of India is aware of the increasing water stress in the industrial sector. Specific issues regarding water supplies to industries are dealt with by the respective State Governments. Government of India has launched National Water Mission as part of the National Action Plan on Climate Change which inter-alia envisages providing incentives for water neutral and water positive technologies in industry, recycling of water including waste water and promoting water efficient technologies and water auditing in industries.

**Monitoring mechanism for interlinking of rivers**

†609. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Supreme Court has urged Government to take up a project related to national interlinking of rivers;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that under this decision the need of monitoring mechanism for this project has also been cited; and

(c) if so, the facts thereof and reasons cited for setting up of monitoring mechanism under this decision?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) to (c) The Hon'ble supreme Court has disposed of Writ Petition (Civil) 512 of 2002 'Networking of rivers' on 27.2.2012. However, certified copy of the recent direction of Hon'ble Supreme Court has so far not been received in Ministry of Water Resources.

**Rivers interlinking project**

†610. SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN:

SHRI PRABHAT JHA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the then Central Government in 2002 had started the work on river interlinking projects in order to make the country free from the problem of drought;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the new ruling Government in the Centre in 2004 had disapproved to move ahead the work of this project;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Supreme Court in its Judgement recently has ordered Government to move ahead this project; and

(f) if so, the planning of Government to implement this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) and (b) The Ministry of Water Resources (MoWR)

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.