

Planning Commission for the proposal submitted for national project and thereafter to obtain clearance from Expenditure Finance Committee/Project Investment Board High Powered Steering and the approval of Union Cabinet for Rengali Irrigation Project.

Proposal for clearance or drainage

2783. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that one proposal for clearance of drainage congestion in the coastal belts of Odisha is under active consideration of the Ministry; and

(b) whether it is also a fact that one proposal at the Central level is prepared for reclamation of water logged area in the country and if so, whether the proposal of Odisha is included in it or not?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) Yes, Sir. It is a fact that one proposal for clearance of drainage congestion in the coastal belt of Odisha is under active consideration of the Ministry of Water Resources and the Government of Odisha has been requested to submit the proposal in the form of an ERM project as per Central Water Commission (CWC) guidelines for preparation of DPR of irrigation and multipurpose project.

(b) No, Sir. There is no single proposal in the Ministry of Water Resources at the Central level exclusively for reclamation of water logged areas in the country. However, the Ministry is implementing Command Areas Development and Water Management Programme (CADWM) of which reclamation of water logged area is a component. Under this programme the State Governments are granted central assistance for reclamation of water logged areas including those of Odisha.

Water Management

2784. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that a classified US report listed India's three major river basins, Indus, Ganga and Brahmaputra, among the world's top 10 water conflict zones for the next ten years:

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereon; and

(c) the steps being taken for better water management?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) The Government of India cannot have access to

classified US Report. However, Government is aware of a study by US Senate titled “Avoiding Water Wars” which *inter-alia*, brought out that the Indus Water Treaty has been the primary vehicle for resolving conflicts over the said water between India and Pakistan. A breakdown in the Treaty’s utility in resolving water conflicts could have serious ramifications for regional stability.

(b) The Government of India strives towards having cordial relationship with neighbouring countries as per the provisions of bilateral agreements/treaties including Indus Water Treaty.

(c) Several steps for augmentation, conservation and efficient management of water resources are taken up by the respective State Governments. In order to supplement the efforts of the State Governments, Government of India provides technical and financial assistance to State Governments to encourage sustainable development and efficient management of water resources through various schemes and programmes.

Lift irrigation projects in Maharashtra

2785. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of districts of various States particularly Maharashtra have been badly affected by drought;

(b) if so, whether the farmers of drought affected areas are being encouraged to adopt lift irrigation for the purpose of irrigation;

(c) if so, whether Government has formulated any scheme for the funding of lift irrigation projects, particularly in Maharashtra; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) The State Government concerned is responsible for notifying the drought affected districts of the State. After the notification, the State Government sends Memorandum seeking Central financial assistance from National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) due to drought to the Ministry of Agriculture. During 2011-12, the Governments of Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh sent Memoranda seeking Central financial assistance from NDRF to the Ministry of Agriculture in respect of 23 districts and 22 districts declared as drought affected respectively for the drought. During 2012-13, Govt. of Maharashtra has declared drought in 15 districts.

(b) to (d) Irrigation being a State subject, the planning, execution, operation and maintenance of irrigation projects including Lift Irrigation schemes are carried out by the State Government from their own resources as per their own priorities.