

(c) The Draft National Water Policy, 2012 stipulates that access to safe drinking water still continues to be a problem in some areas.

(d) to (f) With an average annual per capita availability of water in the country at 1545 cubic meters as per the 2011 census, India has become a water stressed country. With a view to meeting the growing demand for water, several measures for development and management of water resources are undertaken by the respective State Governments, which inter-alia, include creation of storages, restoration of water bodies, rainwater harvesting, artificial recharge to ground water, adoption of better management practices etc. The Government of India provides Central Assistance to the State Governments through various schemes/programmes.

The Government of India has launched the National Water Mission. The main objective of National Water Mission is “conservation of water, minimizing wastage and ensuring its more equitable distribution both across and within States through integrated water resources development and management”.

Rengali Irrigation Project

2782. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) how many projects in the country has been declared as National Projects and how many projects in Odisha qualify to be declared as National Projects;

(b) what is the status of declaring any project as National Project; and

(c) whether Rengali Irrigation Project of Odisha is considered to be declared as a National Project or not and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) The Union Cabinet in its meeting held on 7.2.2008 approved the scheme of national projects and also approved 14 projects as national projects.

The Government of Odisha submitted a proposal of Rengali Irrigation Project for inclusion in the scheme of National Projects, as per this proposal the irrigation potential of 288432 ha is proposed for creation, and as per guidelines of National Projects, a project is eligible for inclusion in ‘the category of National Projects envisaging additional potential of more than 2,00,000 hectare (ha).

(b) A new project is declared as national project after ascertaining its eligibility for assistance, clearance from Expenditure Finance Committee/Project Investment Board and on the recommendation thereupon of a High Powered Steering Committee and thereafter obtaining the approval of Union Cabinet

(c) The State Govt. of Odisha has to obtain investment clearance from the

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