

**Water level of Bhakra reservoir**

2469. SHRI BALWINDER SINGH BHUNDER: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there is an alarming drop in the water level of Bhakra reservoir;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether this drop is going to impact the crops in Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan; and
- (d) if so, the details of efforts to save the crops of these States by arranging water from some alternate sources?

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

(b) As informed by the Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB), Bhakra reservoir level was about 60 feet less in June-July, 2012 and 50 feet in the month of August as compared to corresponding period in the year 2011 due to deficient rainfall.

(c) Filling period of the dam is from 21st May to 20th September every year which is not yet over. Impact, if any, on the crops in Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan will depend on the availability of storage after September 20th in the Reservoir.

(d) An advisory to the States has been issued on 9th July, 2012 by the Ministry of Water Resources for judicious use of available water in the reservoir and for using ground water to meet situation to the extent possible.

**Problem of plunge pool at Srisailem dam**

2470. SHRI DEVENDER GOUD T.: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it has come to the notice of the Ministry that, below the spillway of Srisailem Dam in Andhra Pradesh, there is a huge 300 feet plunge pool due to forceful coming of water from crest gates;

(b) whether it is a fact that scientists from the National Oceanography have done scientific study of plunge pool, etc.;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the details of recommendations made by the scientists; and

(d) how the Ministry is going to help the State Government in addressing this serious problem?

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

(c) Underwater inspection and videography of the plunge pool area revealed rock cut terraces, erosion, cavities, pits etc. The deepest water depth observed is 46.65 m with reference to apron level. Large numbers of rock boulders are also found accumulated at several locations.

Recommendations made to carry out underwater inspection of the apron cylinders by divers at every 2 years or so to ascertain the damages if any on them depending on the overflow through spill way and anticipated quantum of damage. Conducting the Bathymetric survey comprising of echo sounder, side scan sonar and shallow seismic profiling will help to understand the topography and nature of sediment of the plunge pool.

(d) Central Water Commission provide technical assistance in addressing the problem based on data provided by the State Government.

#### **Use of ground water**

2471. DR. PRABHAKAR KORE: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government proposes to treat the ground water as a public property;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there is any law in place to regulate the use of ground water;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and