

Water catchment areas

†2473. SHRI ASHK ALI TAK: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that water catchment areas are diminishing every year;

(b) whether it is also a fact that unauthorised constructions are causing hindrances in water catchment areas; and

(c) if so, whether Government proposed to issue guidelines to State Governments to remove encroachments from water catchment areas of big dams and if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) No, Sir. The catchment area is the geographical area drained by a river or body of water and is generally fixed.

(b) Often unauthorized construction causes hindrance in flow of water within the catchment area.

(c) Draft National Water Policy (2012), *inter alia*, recommends that encroachments and diversion of water bodies (like rivers, lakes, tank, ponds, etc.) and drainage channels (irrigated area as well as urban area drainage) must not be allowed, and wherever it has taken place, it should be restored to the extent feasible and maintained properly.

Declaration of irrigation projects as national projects

†2474. SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULASTE:

SHRI THAAWAR CHAND GEHLOT:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has launched a scheme to announce major irrigation projects as national projects and to provide them 90 per cent aid under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government is making any amendments in AIBP during the Twelfth Five Year Plan;

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.