

Irrigable land in Bihar

‡454. SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been steep decline in irrigable land in Bihar during the past few years;

(b) whether according to a Government report, earlier there were 13 lakh hectares of irrigable land which has now decreased to 9 lakh hectares; and

(c) if so, the action being taken to increase the area under irrigable land in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) to (c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Irrigation potential

455. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is thinking of launching a pilot project to enhance irrigation potential with the commissioning of first Renewal Energy Assisted Pump (REAP) in Delhi, having a capacity of drawing 30,000 litre of water per hour;

(b) if so, whether such pumps would be got installed through the Central or State agencies in districts like Yavatmal of Vidarbha, where farmers are committing suicides; and

(c) whether the technology developed by BSES Yamuna Power Ltd. in collaboration with IIT Delhi would be further fine-tuned so that it could be customized for operation in other States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) No, Sir. There is no such proposal with the Ministry of Water Resources at present.

(b) Water being a State subject such matters are to be decided by the State concerned *i.e.* Government of Maharashtra.

(c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

‡ Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.