

development and management. The CAD and WM programme was launched during 1974-75 to step up utilisation of irrigation potential created. The Government of India is also providing financial support to the States through Command Area Development and Water Management (CAD and WM), which help in optimal utilization of created facilities and also help in reducing the gap between irrigation potential created and irrigation potential utilised. Major and medium projects getting AIBP assistance has to implement Command Area Development *pari-passu* with the project.

(d) The targets set for creation of irrigation potential during the Twelfth Five Year Plan for Government of Maharashtra is yet to be finalised by the Planning Commission.

Inclusion of potable water in concurrent list

†461. SHRI VIVEK GUPTA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether, with regard to the matter of including potable water sources in the Concurrent List, Government is aware of the fact that the crisis of potable water is increasing at a very fast speed;

(b) whether West Bengal has many sources of potable water; and

(c) whether Government is contemplating to include potable water in the Concurrent List as it can augment its usage?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) Government is aware that access to potable water is a problem in some areas of the country. The subject matter of 'Water Supply' is in the State List and at present there is no proposal to include potable water sources in the Concurrent List.

(b) Yes, Sir. West Bengal has both surface and ground water as major sources of potable water.

(c) No, Sir.

Modification in National Water Policy

462. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering to bring in a modified

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

National Water Policy which provides subsidy to the poor and at the same time emphasizes the need for subjecting water to allocation and pricing on economic principles;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that proposed Policy emphasizes the need for a comprehensive legislation for optimum development of Inter-State rivers and river valleys to facilitate inter-State coordination taking river basin/sub-basin, as a unit;

(d) whether Government has sought the opinion of State Governments in this regard; and

(e) if so, their reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Draft National Water Policy (2012) *inter-alia* recommends that for the pre-emptive and high priority uses of water for sustaining life and ecosystem for ensuring food security and supporting livelihood for the poor, the principle of differential pricing may have to be retained. Over and above these uses, water should increasingly be subjected to allocation and pricing on economic principles.

(c) Yes, Sir. The Draft National Water Policy (2012) recommends that there is a need for comprehensive legislation for optimum development of inter-State rivers and river valleys to facilitate inter-State coordination ensuring scientific planning of land and water resources taking basin/sub-basin as unit with unified perspectives of water in all its forms (including precipitation, soil moisture, ground and surface water) and ensuring holistic and balanced development of both the catchment and the command areas.

(d) and (e) The Draft National Water Policy (2012) was circulated amongst all States/UTs for comments. This Policy, after some modifications, was considered by the National Water Board comprising of Chief Secretaries of all States and Secretaries of related Union Ministries at its Meeting held on 7th June, 2012. The Draft National Water Policy (2012) has been further revised as per deliberations in the National Water Board meeting.

Water level in major reservoirs

463. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the water level in 84 major reservoirs crucial for irrigation and power generation is running below the levels of last year;