Ground water acquifiers

1700. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India is the largest user of ground water in the world and almost one third of ground water aquifiers are semi critical and over exploited, and some estimates suggests that at the current rate, nearly 60 per cent of ground water blocks could turn critical by 2015; and

(b) the percentage of irrigated agriculture land and rural and urban drinking water supply which is currently being made from ground water in Odisha, Punjab, Haryana, Delhi, Bengal, Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) As per the United Nations World Water Development Report 4 published by United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in 2012, India is the topmost groundwater abstracting country in the world as of 2010 with abstraction rate of 251 km^3/year.

Assessment unit for ground water resources estimation carried out jointly by the Central Ground Water Board under Ministry of Water Resources and State Ground Water Organizations is administrative unit (block/mandal/taluka). As per the latest assessment of ground water resources as on 2009, out of 5842 assessment units, 1494 units (around 26%) fall under semi-critical, critical or over-exploited category.

As per the World Bank Report on "Deep Wells and Prudence: Towards Pragmatic Action for Addressing Groundwater Overexploitation in India" (2010), if current trends continue, within 20 years 60 percent of all aquifers in India will be in a critical condition.

(b) The percentage of irrigated agriculture land and rural and urban drinking water supply which is currently being made from ground water is as below:

Name of the State	Percentage of area irrigated by ground water to the total irrigated area (%)	Percentage of rural water supply from ground water sources (%)	Percentage of urban water supply from ground water sources (%)
1	2	3	4
Odisha	15	88	40.05
Punjab	73	90.65*	Not Available
Haryana	53.88	45 to 50 (in rural and urban areas)	

1	2	3	4
Delhi		Not Available	
West Bengal	53.10	36.66	23.99 (in Kolkata metro it is 8.86%)
Jharkhand	27.4	90	35
Chhattisgarh	24.44	99	55

* Based on number of ground water based water supply schemes.

Interlinking of rivers

1701. SHRIMATI KANIMOZHI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) given the bipolar situation of flooding in some parts of the country and drought-like conditions in other parts whether Government has considered pursuing the interlinking of rivers and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the recent Supreme Court judgement on the interlinking of rivers has been taken cognizance of; and

(c) whether the Special Committee for Interlinking of Rivers' has been constituted?

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

The Ministry of Water Resources (MoWR) (erstwhile Ministry of Irrigation) formulated a National Perspective Plan (NPP) for Water Resources Development in 1980 envisaging inter-basin transfer of water from surplus basins to deficit basins/ areas which comprises of two components, namely, Himalayan Rivers Development Component and Peninsular Rivers Development Component. National Water Development Agency (NWDA) was set up under the MoWR in 1982 for carrying out various technical studies to establish the feasibility of the proposals of NPP and to give concrete shape to it. NWDA has carried out Water Balance studies of 137 basins/sub-basins and 71 diversion points. It has also carried out toposheet studies of 74 reservoirs & 37 link alignments. Based on these studies, NWDA has identified 30 links (16 under Peninsular Component & 14 under Himalayan Component) for preparation of Feasibility Reports (FRs). Out of these, FRs of 14