

National Water Board

2633. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Water Board, in its 2012 report, has admitted a critical condition of water resources in the country;

(b) whether the grossly inadequate maintenance of existing irrigation infrastructure has resulted in the wastage and under utilization of available resources;

(c) whether the Ministry proposes a holistic and interdisciplinary approach to minimize all water related problems; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) National Water Board in its 14th Meeting held on 7th June, 2012 deliberated on issues regarding various concerns in the water resources sector, inadequate maintenance of existing irrigation infrastructure, wastage and inefficient use of water resources, etc., contained in the draft National Water Policy (2012).

(b) Inadequate maintenance of existing irrigation infrastructure leads to increased losses resulting in wastage and under utilization of available resources.

(c) and (d) Ministry of Water Resources has evolved draft National Water Policy (2012) after comprehensive consultation with all stakeholders which, *inter-alia*, proposes that integrated water resources management taking river basin/sub-basin as a unit should be the main principle for planning, development and management of water resources. In addition, Government of India has launched the National Water Mission with the objective of 'conservation of water, minimizing wastage and ensuring its more equitable distribution both across and within States through integrated water resources development and management'.

Irrigation capacity of water canals

2634. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE:

SHRI N.K. SINGH:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether studies have been conducted to assess reduction in the irrigation

capacity of water canals to accommodate water surge owing to deposition of sand and silt;

(b) whether studies have been conducted to assess the impact of inundation and displacement of people owing to the reduction in irrigation capacity of water canals to accommodate water surges;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) to (d) Irrigation being a State subject, the operation and regulation of quantity of water in canals are carried out by the project authorities under the respective State Governments. The details about the status of flow in canals are maintained by project authorities. However, Central Water Commission (CWC) is involved in Performance Evaluation studies of completed major/medium irrigation projects. One of the objectives is to evaluate if the system components are capable of delivering the required quantity of water. The findings of the studies indicate that water carrying capacity of canals becomes less due to siltation, weed growth etc. However these studies do not assess the reduction in the capacity of irrigation and water canals to accommodate water surges owing to deposition of sand and silt and the impact of inundation and displacement of people owing to the reduction in the capacity of irrigation and water canals to accommodate water surges.

Irrigation projects in Jharkhand

2635. SHRI DHIRAJ PRASAD SAHU: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the funds allocated by the Central Government to the Jharkhand Government for maintenance and repair of irrigation projects in the State during the last two years; and

(b) the amount actually spent by the State Government during each year?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) and (b) Government of India provides Central Assistance (CA) under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) to the State Governments for Extension, Renovation and Modernization (ERM) of Irrigation Projects on the request of the State Government and as per the eligibility criteria given in the AIBP Guidelines. No funds are allocated