

PPP Projects in Research and Development

4322. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to earmark Rs. 5,000 crore under Public Private Partnership (PPP) projects for supporting joint Research and Development (R and D);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this fund is proposed to be confined to R and D efforts in the field of public education institutions *i.e.* IITs and private industries;

(d) if so, whether it is also proposed to encourage PPP mode in other R and D activities; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY):

(a) No Sir. At present, there is no such proposal before the Government.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Water flow in Mahanadi

4323. SHRI A.V. SWAMY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) in view of the recent heightened agitations by farmers of Odisha on water availability in Mahanadi river, whether Government has reviewed the environmental clearances of thermal power plants and large industries in that State as well as in Chhattisgarh;

(b) if so, the details of total water demand considering all existing project clearances for that State;

(c) whether there is any national action plan to ensure minimum water flow in that river particularly during summer months of March to June and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) what measures are being taken by the Central Government to minimize pollution of that river from sewage discharge and garbage disposal by the State municipalities?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) and (b) Ministry of Environment and Forest (MoEF) has reported that MoEF has not reviewed environmental clearances accorded to thermal power plants linked to source of water from river Mahanadi and on the basis of the reported conflicts by Odisha farmers on water availability from Mahanadi river.

(c) and (d) Conservation of rivers is an ongoing and collective effort of the Central and State Governments. Ministry of Environment & Forests administers a Centrally sponsored scheme of National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) for assisting State Governments for various pollution abatement schemes. NRCP presently covers polluted stretches of 41 rivers in 191 towns spread over 20 states.

The National Water Policy, 2012 recommends that 'Conservation of rivers, river corridors, water bodies and infrastructure should be undertaken in a scientifically planned manner through community participation'. The policy further recommends that 'Ecological needs of the river should be determined, through scientific study, recognizing that the natural river flows are characterized by low or no flows, small floods (freshets), large floods etc., and should accommodate developmental needs' and that a 'portion of river flows should be kept aside to meet ecological needs ensuring that the low and high flow releases are proportional to the natural flow regime, including base flow contribution in the low flow season through regulated ground water use'.

Central Water Commission (CWC) under Ministry of Water Resources also test the river water samples collected from 396 monitoring stations located in all the major river basins of India.

Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) under Ministry of Environment and Forests tests the water samples of the rivers from 1275 monitoring stations located on 445 rivers.

CPCB has identified 121 polluted rivers based on the water quality data analysis over the years. Mahanadi is one of them.

Central Pollution Control Board and State Pollution Control Boards have taken following steps to prevent and control pollution:

- (i) The provisions of Water Act 1974 are implemented by consent management to regulate discharge of effluents and enforcement of standards in respect of polluting sources.
- (ii) Control of Industrial pollution under the provisions of Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974.
- (iii) A mutually agreed time targeted programme is implemented under Corporate Responsibility of Environment Protection (CREP) with a bank guarantee on various commitments.
- (iv) Special Drives are taken against the major 17 categories of polluting industries.
- (v) Directions are issued to industries discharging their waste water into rivers and lakes.
- (vi) 41 problem areas are identified as per comprehensive Environmental Pollution Index (CEPI).
- (vii) Environmental auditing is taken up.
- (viii) Common Effluent Treatment Plants for cluster of small scale industrial units are promoted.
- (ix) Promotion of low-waste and no-waste technology.
- (x) Diversion and development of treatment facilities.

Delayed irrigation project

†4324. SHRI ISHWARLAL SHANKARLAL JAIN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether, due to insufficient disbursement of financial assistance by the Central Government to various States, many irrigation projects and construction work of new dams have been withheld/being delayed;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.