

Permanent solution for flood losses

4331. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to devise a regular action plan to control flood losses in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is proposed to work out a permanent solution as well as to control flood losses;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether such a project has already been initiated in one of the southern States; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) and (b) The subject of flood management falls within the purview of the States. Accordingly, the schemes for management of floods including action plans to control flood losses are devised and formulated by the concerned State Governments. The Union Government provides support to the States which is technical, advisory, catalytic and promotional in nature. The Government of India had enacted Disaster Management Act in 2005 and consequently, the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) had been set up at national level to supervise and coordinate the policy matters pertaining to management of all disasters including flood disaster. Besides, the State Disaster Management Authorities (SDMA) have also been set up in each State which formulate action plans for mitigation of damages due to disasters including control of losses due to floods. In addition, the Central Water Commission, under the Ministry of Water Resources, issues flood forecasts at 175 stations in the country which are utilized by the local administration in planning suitable evacuation measures for safety of the lives and property of the people.

(c) and (d) As per the view expressed by various Expert Committees set up in

the past by the Union Government on the subject of flood management, absolute and permanent immunity against floods is not techno-economically feasible and impacts of floods can be minimized to a certain degree by adopting an optimum combination of structural measures in the form of large storage reservoirs, detention basins, embankments, improvement of channel capacities; and non-structural measures like flood forecasting, flood plain zoning and catchment area treatment. The National Water Policy-2012 as adopted by the National Water Resources Council emphasizes on these measures of flood management, besides effective implementation of inter-basin transfer of surplus/flood water to water scarce regions.

(e) and (f) The general measures of flood management are under implementation in all the flood affected States including the flood affected States of south India. During Eleventh Plan, the Union Government had launched the Flood Management Programme for providing central assistance to the State Governments for undertaking works related to river management, flood control, anti-erosion, drainage development, restoration of damaged earlier flood management works and anti-sea erosion. This programme was implemented in the entire country including the States of Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Karnataka in south India, and the total central assistance of Rs. 3566 crore was released during Eleventh Plan. The Ministry of Water Resources has proposed continuation of Flood Management Programme during Twelfth Plan also.

Further, the National Water Development Agency (NWDA) has been entrusted with the study of peninsular component envisaging 16 nos. of inter-basin water transfer links which also include rivers falling in the States of south India.

Committee on rain water harvesting and groundwater level

4332. SHRI T.M. SELVAGANAPATHI: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that a committee has been set up to report on rain water harvesting and groundwater level status in many parts of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that the groundwater level in many parts of the country is depleting very fast; and