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8.	Chunar(at Ganga)-Sone Barrage link	- S&I works completed
9.	Sone Dam - Southern Tributaries of Ganga link	- S&I works taken up
10.	Manas-Sankosh-Tista-Ganga (M-S-T-G) link	- S&I works taken up
11.	Jogighopa(at Brahmaputra)-Tista-Ganga at Farakka (Alternate to M-S-T-G) link	- S&I works taken up
12.	Ganga (Farakka)-Sunderbans link	- S&I works completed
13.	Ganga-Damodar-Subernarekha link	- S&I works completed
14.	Subernarekha-Mahanadi link	- S&I works completed

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\* Priority links.

PFR- Pre-Feasibility Report; FR- Feasibility Report; DPR- Detailed Project Report

S&I - Survey & Investigation in Indian portion

#### **Schemes for construction of small reservoirs and dams in Uttarakhand**

†1549. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would consider about the schemes for construction of small reservoirs and dams for utilization of water available in the country including Uttarakhand for drinking water and irrigation projects;

(b) if so, the number of such suggestions received from Members of Parliament; and

(c) if not, whether Government is ready to consider the proposals sent through public representatives

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) Water being State subject, State Governments conceive, plan and implement water resources projects for irrigation, drinking water etc. With a view to encourage the completion of ongoing projects and help states in creation of irrigation potential,

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

Government of India provides financial assistance under Accelerated Irrigation benefit Program (AIBP). Presently no major and medium project in Uttarakhand is receiving Central assistance. In case of minor irrigation schemes, the Central assistance grant to State is provided to the projects in the case of North-Eastern Region, hilly States (Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir and Uttarakhand), Undivided Koraput, Bolangir and Kalahandi (KKBK) districts of Orissa and projects benefitting tribal areas and drought prone areas. Since inception of AIBP for minor irrigation projects, a total no. of 14187 MI Schemes including 2519 surface MI schemes of Uttarakhand have been completed upto 31.12.2012.

(b) and (c) Several suggestions have been received from Hon'ble Members of Parliament in this regard. The proposals are forwarded to State Governments for taking appropriate action in the matter.

#### **Ground water exploitation**

†1550. DR. RAM PRAKASH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the rate of ground water exploitation in the country is almost thrice of that in the world and the rate of water recharge is only 0.5 per cent;

(b) if so, whether ground water resources would not reach on the brink of exhaustion during the next 20 years; and

(c) the necessary steps Government is considering to take to resolve this situation?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) and (b) According to the United Nations World Water Development Report 4 published by United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in 2012, India is the topmost ground water abstracting country in the world as of 2010 with abstraction rate of 251 km<sup>3</sup>/year. As per latest assessment of ground water resources carried out jointly by Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) and State Ground Water Organizations, as of 2009, annual ground water withdrawal has been estimated as 243 billion cubic metres (bcm) and stage of ground water development is 61%. Over-exploitation of ground water in certain areas in the Country has led to decline in ground water levels. CGWB has not carried out any

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.