

**Utilisation of water of Himalayan rivers**

3095. SHRI TARUN VIJAY : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that it would be necessary to consult the Governments of Bangladesh, Nepal, China, etc. before chalking out any project to utilise the water of rivers originating from the Himalayas;

(b) if so, the names of each river along with the respective countries to be consulted with; and

(c) whether Government has contacted the Governments of some foreign countries in this regard and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI HARISH RAWAT) : (a) to (c) There exists a Treaty between India and Bangladesh on sharing of lean season flow (from January 1—May 31) of river Ganga, and it is ensured by Government of India that any project taken up in Ganga basin does not adversely affect the Treaty. On the water related issues, India is having separate bilateral mechanisms with neighbouring countries including Bangladesh, Nepal, China etc. Any issues in respect of water resources projects on Himalayan river/s in India are addressed through these mechanism, as and when required. However, before chalking out any project to utilise the water of the rivers originating from Himalaya, there is no binding requirement, to consult the Government of Bangladesh, Nepal, China etc.

**Arsenic contaminated ground water in Assam**

3096. SHRI D. RAJA :

SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the arsenic contamination in ground water in Assam has increased affecting 19 of 27 districts during the last eight years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of measures being taken to reduce the contamination during the last few years; and

(d) the reasons for failure to contain the contamination and the effective measures proposed to be taken to mitigate the problem?