

**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?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI HARISH RAWAT) : (a) and (b) As per information received from the Public Health Engineering Department, Government of Assam, Arsenic in groundwater beyond permissible limit (0.05 mg/litre as per WHO norms) is found to occur in 18 districts of Assam as per details given in Statement (*See below*). The arsenic contamination ranges from 0.052 mg/litre to 0.996 mg/litre.

(c) and (d) Since *in situ* treatment of contaminated aquifers is difficult, remedial measures are concentrated on providing alternate sources of water supply. The Public Health Engineering Department, Government of Assam has informed that they have taken up spot sources specifically RCC ring wells in Arsenic free aquifers as a short term measure. Besides, as long-term measure, Piped Water Supply Scheme from alternative safe surface sources are taken up.

*Statement*

*Details regarding arsenic contaminated ground water in Assam*

Sl. No.	Districts	Arsenic contamination (in mg/l) observed (beyond permissible limit of 0.050 mg/l)
1	2	3
1.	Sonitpur	0.462
2.	Lakhimpur	0.583
3.	Goalpara	0.211
4.	Morigaon	0.248
5.	Nagaon	0.052
6.	Baksa	0.194
7.	Nalbari	0.817
8.	Barpeta	0.356
9.	Hailakandi	0.533
10.	Jorhat	0.491

1	2	3
11.	Karimganj	0.979
12.	Cachar	0.748
13.	Golaghat	0.996
14.	Darrang	0.292
15.	Bongaigaon	0.892
16.	Sibsagar	0.249
17.	Dhubri	0.577
18.	Dhemaji	0.577

**National projects**

3097. SHRI C.M. RAMESH : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of each of the 15 national projects approved by the Ministry, State-wise;

(b) the progress of each of the project and when each of the project is likely to be completed;

(c) the details of demands for declaring some projects as national projects from various States received in the Ministry, State-wise; and

(d) what action the Ministry has taken on such requests, particularly from Andhra Pradesh, to declare them as national projects?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI HARISH RAWAT) : (a) and (b) The details of the 15 projects included in the scheme of National Projects indicating their progress and scheduled year of completion is given in Statement-I (*See below*).

(c) and (d) The details of the proposals received from various State Governments including Andhra Pradesh for inclusion in the scheme of National Projects and the action taken is given in Statement-II.