4. Adaptation strategies in view of climate change for designing and management of water resources structures and review of acceptability criteria has been emphasized.

5. A system to evolve benchmarks for water uses for different purposes, *i.e.*, water footprints, and water auditing be developed to ensure efficient use of water. Project financing has been suggested as a tool to incentivize efficient and economic use of water.

6. Setting up of Water Regulatory Authority has been recommended. Incentivization of recycle and re-use has been recommended.

7. Water Users Associations should be given statutory powers to collect and retain a portion of water charges, manage the volumetric quantum of water allotted to them and maintain the distribution system in their jurisdiction.

8. Removal of large disparity in stipulations for water supply in urban areas and in rural areas has been recommended.

9. Water resources projects and services should be managed with community participation. Wherever the State Governments or local governing bodies so decide, the private sector can be encouraged to become a service provider in public private partnership model to meet agreed terms of service delivery, including penalties for failure.

10. Adequate grants to the States to update technology, design practices, planning and management practices, preparation of annual water balances and accounts for the site and basin, preparation of hydrologic balances for water systems, and benchmarking and performance evaluation.

Water availability in Mahanadi river

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

(a) the details of quantum of water flowing through Mahanadi river being drawn for non-agricultural purposes like thermal power plants and other industries in Chhattisgarh;

(b) to what extent the quantity of water flowing into Odisha is reduced due to the above activity;

(c) whether Government is aware of its impact on quantum of water flowing to Hirakund Dam in Odisha to meet their existing commitments for power plants and for agricultural and non-agricultural uses; and

(d) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) As per information available in CWC, the State of Chhattisgarh has allocated 113 Million Cubic Meter (MCM) of water from Mahanadi river to National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) for generation of thermal power at Lara in Raigarh district.

(b) to (d) The State Government of Odisha has reported that they are aware of requirement of water for power plants, for agricultural and non-agricultural use and the effect of any reduction of inflow into Hirakud reservoir due to use by Chhattisgarh for non-agricultural purposes is not felt by Odisha.

Depletion of groundwater level in Rajasthan

†765. SHRI ASHK ALI TAK: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that groundwater level in Rajasthan is continuously depleting;

(b) if so, the details of assistance provided by the Central Government to the State to control it; and

(c) the details of measures taken by the Central Government, so far, to check the depletion of groundwater level?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI HARISH RAWAT): (a) Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) under the Ministry of Water Resources monitors ground water levels on a regional basis four times a year through a network of 15653 ground water observation wells located in India including in the State of Rajasthan. In Rajasthan, ground water level monitoring data of pre-monsoon 2013 compared with decadal mean of pre-monsoon (2003-2012) indicates that of the wells analysed, about half have shown decline.

(b) and (c) A State Sector Scheme "Artificial Recharge to Ground Water through Dug Wells" of Ministry of Water Resources was implemented in 31 districts of Rajasthan

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.