

Problem of river pollution in Assam

*10. SHRIMATI NAZNIN FARUQUE: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the problem of wide-scale pollution of Bharalu, Dipor Bil, Burhi Dihing and Brahmaputra rivers of Assam;

(b) whether Government is formulating any action plan to eradicate the problem of pollution of Burhi Dihing and Brahmaputra rivers as in the case of river Ganga; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION (SUSHRI UMA BHARTI): (a) Yes, Sir. As per the Report of the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) for the year 2010, the stretch of Bharalu river at Guwahati, Dipor Bil at Guwahati and Burhi Dihing river at Margherita have been identified as polluted. The reports of the State Government of Assam show that apart from bacteriological characteristics all other parameters for river Brahmaputra are within permissible limits.

(b) and (c) It is the responsibility of State Governments concerned or the local bodies to set up proper facilities for collection and treatment of sewage being generated and ensure that untreated sewage does not fall into the rivers. The Central Government facilitates the process through the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of National River Conservation Plan (NRCP), which is implemented by the state governments on a coast sharing basis. As a pre-requisite for consideration of the Detailed Project Report (DPR) under NRCP, the City Sanitation Plan (CSP) and Feasibility Report (FR) have to be approved. The detailed project report for pollution abatement of river Bharalu at Guwahati was submitted by the State Government to the National River Conservation Directorate of the Ministry of Environment & Forests. This was examined and found to be deficient. The state government has been asked in May 2014 to rectify the deficiencies in the city sanitation plan and feasibility report for consideration of their DPR.

Tapping of natural water resources

* 11. SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that water resources are fast depleting posing a serious threat of water crisis in the country;

(b) whether any concrete plan to tap the natural resources of water, such as rain water, has been contemplated by Government; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION (SUSHRI UMABHARTI): (a) While a study by Central Water Commission does not indicate any discernible reducing trends a recent assessment of the dynamic ground water resources in India by the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) shows that while the overall availability of ground water has remained constant, 16% of blocks as assessed by the CGWB in the States of Uttar Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Gurjarat, Karnataka, Rajasthan and Delhi are over- exploited.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. With a view to augmenting the water resources for irrigation, domestic, and industrial consumption, several measures are being undertaken by the respective State Governments which, inter-alia, include conservation of water resources in reservoirs & traditional water bodies, rain water harvesting and artificial recharge of ground water. Central Government provides technical and financial assistance to the State Governments through various schemes and programmes such as Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP), and Repair, Renovation and Restoration of Water Bodies etc. to facilitate this.

The Central Ground Water Board has prepared a Master Plan for Artificial Recharge of Ground Water Aquifers in the Country. It has been shared with States and UTs for implementation.

Further, the National Water Policy (2012) has also highlighted the need for augmenting the availability of water through direct use of rainfall, desalination and avoidance of inadvertent evapo-transpiration. Copies of the National Water Policy, 2012 have been forwarded to all State Governments/UTs and concerned Ministries/Departments of Central Government for appropriate action.

Dumping of Solar Energy Products

*12. SHRI MOHAMMED ADEEB: Will the Minister of NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Solar Manufacturers Association has alleged that dumping of solar energy products has caused loss of ₹ 3,000 crores;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) the action being taken to provide non-conventional and renewable energy to the citizens at low cost and also to adequately propagate the use of non-conventional energy?