

Funds to Maharashtra for repair, renovation and restoration of water bodies

†118. SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has received any request from Maharashtra Government regarding release of funds under the Repair, Renovation and Restoration (RRR) of water bodies with domestic support and flood management programme;
- (b) if so, the details thereof, as on date;
- (c) the latest position of this proposal; and
- (d) by when this proposal would be finalized and the reasons for the delay therein?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (d) Yes Sir. The Government of Maharashtra has submitted a proposal in February 2014 for 348 water bodies, costing ₹157.37 crore, for funding under the Repair, Renovation and Restoration (RRR) scheme of this Ministry. The proposal has been examined and comments sent to Maharashtra for compliance.

In addition, under Flood Management Programme, the “Detailed Project Report (DPR) for flood protection works of Lendinallah at Katol town in Nagpur district of Maharashtra for an estimated cost of ₹ 21.11 crore was received on 29.11.2010. The proposal could not be included under FMP as the Empowered Committee decided to approve only those schemes, which could be completed during the 11th Plan. The State Government was requested to submit a fresh proposal as per 12th Plan guidelines for FMP.

Death of students in Larji dam

119. DR. CHANDAN MITRA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the mandatory guidelines about dam safety measures outlined by the Central Water Commission are not being strictly enforced at all the hydel power projects in the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof along with the reasons therefor, project-wise;
- (c) the main reasons for recent deaths of Hyderabad students near Larji Dam in Himachal Pradesh;
- (d) the fresh steps taken by Government to check such incidents in future; and
- (e) the preventive measures taken for disaster management in case of dam failure or sudden release of water?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Water is a State Subject and dams are generally owned, operated and maintained by the State Governments. There are no mandatory guidelines from Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation. However, Central Water Commission (CWC) has issued guidelines from time to time on the subject of dam safety procedures and emergency action planning related to dam. Government of Himachal Pradesh has informed that the safety norms during operation stages are being adhered to strictly as per CWC guidelines.

(c) to (e) Government of Himachal Pradesh has informed that after this incident, they have issued instructions to various concerned Government/Semi Government organizations to observe the protocol during release of water downstream, besides observing other preventive measures, guidelines to update the dam safety norms/regulation, Disaster Management Plan, Standard Operating Procedure (SOP), operation and maintenance manuals etc. in line with guidelines of CWC and its compliance in future. Further, the Government of Himachal Pradesh have stated that the matter is *sub judice*.

River pollution

†120. SHRI NARESH AGRAWAL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any plan to prevent the release of sewage and harmful effluents from factories into the rivers as sewage and harmful chemical effluents of factories are more responsible for polluting the rivers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (c) The Water (Prevention & Control of Pollution) Act, enacted by the Parliament in 1974, provides for a comprehensive Act to prevent the release of sewage and harmful effluents from factories into the rivers. This is a specific and comprehensive legislation institutionalizing simultaneously the regulatory agencies for controlling water pollution. It addresses contamination of water or alteration of the Physical/Chemical/Biological properties, discharge of sewage or trade effluent or other effluents likely to make water harmful or injurious. Further, the Act provides for punishment to the defaulters for prison term which shall not be less than one and half year but which may extend to six years with fine. The Central Pollution Control Board can also issue directions for closure of industry and disconnection of electricity in case of persistent defiance by any polluting industry.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.