

comprehensive master plans for management of floods and sent them to all the Ganga Basin States including Bihar for implementation.

- (ii) A Flood Management Programme was launched by GoI in the Eleventh Plan and its continuation during Twelfth Plan had been approved by Cabinet in October, 2013. Under this Programme, the Central assistance of ₹ 866.23 crore has been released to Government of Bihar till date.
- (iii) The Central Water Commission issues flood forecasts at 32 Stations in Bihar during every monsoon season to enable the State Government to decide programmes for safety of people in flood affected areas.
- (iv) The Government of India is having continuous dialogue with Government of Nepal for construction of storage reservoirs on rivers flowing from Nepal into Bihar for moderation of floods in Bihar.

Ganga Manthan

†3531. SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the report on pollution in Ganga was already prepared before the current financial year;
- (b) if so, whether the huge amount of ₹ 100 crores would be spent again in the current financial year preparing the report based on how to clean the river, its study, intellectual debates like ‘Ganga Manthan’ and survey; and
- (c) if so, the details of reasons for repeating the same exercise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) A Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) for 10 years has been signed in 2010 by Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) and a consortium of Seven (7) IITs for preparation of a comprehensive River Basin Management Plan for Ganga. Besides the IITs, National Institute of Hydrology (NIH), Roorkee, Banaras Hindu University, various universities and research institutes are also involved in Ganga River Basin Management Plan (GRBMP). An interim report has been

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

submitted, which is circulated to different Ministries, departments and other stakeholders for comments.

(b) and (c) No separate fund has been earmarked for study, intellectual debates etc. A national level consultation in the name of 'Ganga Manthan' was organized on 7th of July, 2014 at New Delhi to facilitate interaction with various stakeholders including policy makers and implementers, academicians, environmentalists, spiritual leaders and NGOs. The event was organized by the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG), a registered society under Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), implementing the river Ganga pollution abatement programme under National Ganga River Basin Authority (NGRBA). It was aimed to provide a platform for various stakeholders to come together to discuss the issues and possible solutions to the challenging task of Ganga Rejuvenation. The views expressed by the stakeholders participating in 'Ganga Manthan' would be helpful for the preparation of a road map for the preparation of a comprehensive plan to rejuvenate the River Ganga. Crystallization of action plan, including framing of its salient features, time line and likely expenditure for different activities would be known only after the finalisation of the action plan for cleaning of river Ganga.

Providing drinking water to Rajasthan

†3532. SHRI VIJAY GOEL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) the names of schemes under which the Central Government is providing grants to make the drinking water available to the desert areas of Rajasthan; and

(b) whether Government has any proposal under consideration for those areas where no such schemes have been initiated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) Under National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP), the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation is releasing grants to all the States/ UTs including Rajasthan to provide safe drinking water in rural areas of the country including desert areas of Rajasthan. 10% of the NRDWP fund is earmarked for Desert Development Programme (DDP) areas to tackle the extreme conditions of low rainfall and poor water availability with 100 % Central share.

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