

Since the commencement of the RTE Act in April 2010, sanctions under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) have been given for construction of 34,448 primary schools and 12,040 upper primary schools, 7.53 lakh additional classrooms and 40,161 drinking water facilities, 5.83 lakh toilets to enhance access to elementary education. Further, to improve quality, the SSA supports States for recruitment of additional teachers, regular in-service training to teachers, regular academic support to teachers through Block Resource Centres and Cluster Resource Centres, and free distribution of textbooks. In addition, under focussed programmes for improvement of learning outcomes, the SSA supports States on early grade reading, writing and comprehension, and early mathematics programmes, while at upper primary level support is provided for mathematics and science teaching learning. States have also been assisted to conduct comprehensive external student assessment surveys to assess gaps in student learning, in order to undertake corrective action.

Committee for inter-linking of rivers

*465. SHRIMATI SASIKALA PUSHPA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that the Supreme Court had directed Government to constitute a Committee to oversee the implementation of the inter-linking of rivers;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and Government's response thereto;
- (c) whether Government has formulated any policy regarding the inter-linking of rivers;
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (e) the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION (SUSHRI UMABHARATI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Supreme Court in their Order on Writ Petition (CIVIL) No.512 of 2002 on NETWORKING OF RIVERS, have directed the Government to constitute a Committee to be called a 'Special Committee for Inter-linking of Rivers' headed by the Union Minister for Water Resources and comprising of members from States as well as representative of other associated Union Ministries and experts nominated by them, including Amicus Curiae. Accordingly, the committee has been formed by this Ministry.

(c) to (e) This Ministry has formulated a National Perspective Plan (NPP) for Water Resources Development envisaging inter-basin transfer of water from surplus basins to deficit basins/areas. National Water Development Agency (NWDA) has identified 30 links

under the NPP. Based on the concurrence of the concerned States, three links namely Ken-Betwa Link, Damanganga -Pinjal link and Par-Tapi-Narmada link have been taken up for the preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) by the National Water Development Agency (NWDA) out of 30 inter-State links identified under National Perspective Plan (NPP). The DPR for Ken-Betwa Link Project and Damanganga - Pinjal link have been completed by NWDA.

In addition, out of 46 proposals of intra-State links received by NWDA from 9 States, the Burhi Gandak-Noon-Baya-Ganga Link of Bihar, Kosi-Mechi Link of Bihar, Ponnair-Palar Link of Tamil Nadu, Wainganga-Nalganga Link of Maharashtra and Barakar-Damodar-Subernarekha Link of Jharkhand have also been taken up for the preparation of DPR by the NWDA on the request made by the concerned States. The DPRs of two intra-State links i.e. Burhi Gandak-Noon-Baya-Ganga Link Project and Kosi-Mechi Link Project have been completed and sent to Government of Bihar in December, 2013 and March, 2014 respectively.

Review Committee on National Water Policy

*466. SHRIMATI RAJANI PATIL: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has constituted any Review Committee to go into all the aspects of new developments to be incorporated in the Draft National Water Policy (2012);

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the recommendations made by the Committee; and

(c) whether the Ministry has examined all the recommendations of the Committee, so far, and if so, by when the policy would be formulated?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION (SUSHRI UMA BHARATI): (a) to (c) The Central Government had constituted a Drafting Committee to prepare a draft National Water Policy after reviewing the existing National Water Policy (2002), current scenario of water resources in the country and feedback received from various stakeholders. Draft National Water Policy recommended by the Drafting Committee was put up in the public domain and comments were invited from general public, all State Governments/Union Territories and related Union Ministries. The revised draft National Water Policy, arrived at after careful consideration of the comments received, was deliberated upon by the National Water Resources Council, comprising *inter-alia* Chief Ministers of all States