

(c) whether Ganga rejuvenation is prepared to be linked with religious tourism of various places;

(d) if so, the plan in this regard; and

(e) whether any time-line has been fixed for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) to (e) Government is committed for rejuvenation of River Ganga. Consultation with different stakeholders *viz.*, Ministries such as Ministry of Environment & Forest; Water Resources, Ganga Rejuvenation and River Development; Urban Development; Tourism; Shipping; Drinking Water Supply and Sanitation; Rural Development, etc., as well as academics, technical experts and NGOs associated with cleaning of Ganga, is in progress. Crystallisation of action plan, including framing of its salient features, including time line would be known only after the finalisation of the action plan for cleaning of River Ganga. This would include issues of ecological flow in River Ganga as also curbing of pollution, religious tourism etc.

Construction of Viridi Dam

623. SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any dam known as Viridi Dam being constructed by Maharashtra Government;

(b) whether Goa Government has taken any objection to the construction of the said dam;

(c) the details of the dam and also the details of the objections raised by Goa Government; and

(d) whether Goa Government has filed any objection before any tribunal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) Government of Goa has informed that the State objected to the construction of Viridi Dam and has raised the issue before Mahadayi Water Disputes Tribunal (MWDT). The matter is *sub-judice*. As per the information provided by the

Mahadayi Water Disputes Tribunal (MWDT), the Virdi dam is an earthen dam having the length and height as 745 m and 50.387 m respectively. The storage of dam is 14.819 MCum with Irrigable Command area as 1345 ha and 75% dependable yield as 22.70 MCum.

Interlinking of rivers

624. SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) what action has been taken as on date by the National Water Development Authority for river-linkage programme in various States, State-wise;

(b) the number of river-linkage projects completed and in progress, State-wise;

(c) whether the Central Government is going to approach the State Governments to resolve public agitation and disputes amicably to resolve acquisition of land issues in this regard to expedite river-linkage programme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): (a) and (b) Under the National Perspective Plan (NPP) prepared by Ministry of Water Resources, National Water Development Authority (NWDA) has already identified 14 links under Himalayan River Component and 16 links under Peninsular Rivers Component. Out of these, Feasibility Reports of 14 links under Peninsular Component and 2 links (Indian portion) under Himalayan Component have been prepared. The present status of links identified on rivers in various States of the Country is given in the Statement-I (*See below*).

In addition, NWDA has received 46 proposals for intra-state links from 9 States *viz.* Maharashtra, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Odisha, Bihar, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Chhattisgarh. Pre-Feasibility Reports (PFRs) of 33 intra-state links have been completed by NWDA up to March, 2014. The present status of intra-state river link proposals received from the State Governments is given in the Statement-II (*See below*)

(c) and (d) These projects have to be implemented by the respective State Governments.