

- A revisit to NRM is needed in view of the new paradigm developing in the recent past, particularly payment for the negative externalities to upstream land owners need attention.
- In WHSs and their development, the geo-hydrological aspects must be considered to benefit the on-farm groundwater recharge.
- Climate change and consequent intense/heavy rains must be taken care of improved land husbandry and for proper designs for RWHSs. The need for participatory groundwater management becomes all the more relevant.
- Biomass generation in any form needs more attention to sustain production systems in the rainfed areas.
- Training is a continuous process. Besides providing the needed infrastructure, some seed money may be provided to the CBOs for (a) identifying the training needs and (b) choosing the trainer.
- Credit for the poor needs a special dispensation.
- WDF may be properly utilized even within the support under MGNREGS.
- Special focus is required to create the four banks - seed, fodder, biomass (nutrient & pesticide based) and water.
- Marketing the surpluses generated with the implementation of the Project through cooperative or CIG-approach needs consideration.
- More attention is needed on crop demonstration as well as of proper use of RF.
- The staff at district level, PIA and WDT must have sufficient understanding of land and water so as to bring about equity an essential part in proper implementation of the IWMP.

Agreement with Bangladesh to improve rail-road links

3871. SHRI BAISHNAB PARIDA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India and Bangladesh have entered into certain agreement to improve rail-road links to enhance trade and also get transit access through that country to bridge distance between the mountainous North Eastern States and rest of the country;

(b) if so, whether it involves construction of rail links between the two countries by the Indian Government to achieve the objective; and

(c) whether Ministry of Railways has signed certain agreements with the Bangladesh Government in the matter, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GENERAL (RETD.) V.K. SINGH]: (a) to (c) In September 2011, Governments of India and Bangladesh signed a Framework Agreement on Cooperation for Development that envisages taking steps to facilitate trade by road, rail, inland waterways, air and shipping with the objective of promoting trade and people-to-people contacts across borders.

In addition, the Governments of India and Bangladesh entered into a Memorandum of Understanding for Development of Railway Infrastructure to Establish Rail Link between Agartala (India) and Akhaura (Bangladesh) in February 2013. The Detailed Project Proposal prepared by the Indian side for this rail link is awaiting approval of Bangladesh. Opening the rail link is in line with our objective of promoting trade and people-to-people contacts across borders.

Agreement on traditional rights of fishermen

3872. SHRI VIJAY JAWAHARLAL DARDA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is agreement for guaranteed rights to fishermen of India and Sri Lanka to enjoy traditional rights of fishing in each other's waters in and around Katchatheevu Island;

(b) if so, the details regarding the agreement about the rights of Indian fishermen in that area;

(c) whether any demarcation of maritime boundary has taken place in that area; and

(d) the number of Indian fishermen those have been taken into custody by Sri Lankan Navy and the action taken by Government to guarantee safety to fishermen in that area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GENERAL (RETD.) V.K. SINGH]: (a) to (d) The 1974 Agreement on the demarcation of the International Maritime Boundary Line between India and Sri Lanka as also the Exchange of Letters of 1976 stipulate that fishing vessels and fishermen of India shall not engage in fishing in the historic waters, territorial seas and the exclusive economic zone of Sri Lanka. Under the Agreement, Indian fishermen enjoy access to visit the Katchatheevu