

Inter linking of rivers

922. DR. R. LAKSHMANAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has moved from Feasibility Report (FR) stage to Detailed Project Report (DPR) stage in the inter linking of rivers programme;

(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 SANWAR LAL JAT):

(a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation (MoWR, RD and GR) has identified 30 links under the National Perspective Plan (NPP) for Water Resources Development, envisaging inter-basin transfer of water from surplus basins to deficit basins/areas. Based on the concurrence of the concerned States, Detailed Project Reports (DPR) for Ken-Betwa and Damanganga – Pinjal links have been completed by NWDA.

In addition, out of 46 proposals of intra-state links received by NWDA from 9 States, 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.

Height of Pancheshwar dam

†923. SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH MAHRA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the height of dam being constructed jointly by India and Nepal at Pancheshwar in the district of Champawat in Uttarakhand has been fixed;

(b) if so, the height in metres fixed for the dam being constructed there;

(c) whether delimitation of the villages coming under the submerged areas of dam has been conducted; and

(d) if not, by when the delimitation would be undertaken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION (SHRI SANWAR LAL JAT): (a) and (b) The Pancheshwar Development Authority (PDA) has been constituted

jointly by India and Nepal for implementation of the Pancheshwar Multipurpose project on river Mahakali (known as Sharda in India). The Terms of Reference of the Authority includes, *inter-alia*, preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) acceptable to both the countries. The project *inter-alia* envisages construction of a dam at Pancheshwar. The tentative height of the Pancheshwar dam is kept at 315 metres above foundation level in earlier DPRs. All the parameters including height of the dam would be finalised by the PDA at the time of finalisation of the DPR of the project, acceptable to both sides.

(c) and (d) Reservoir survey about the area likely to be submerged was carried out while preparing Detailed Project Report by Joint Project Office (JPO) in 2002. This may, now, require updation at the time of finalising the DPR by PDA.

Pollution in Ganga

924. SHRI D. KUPENDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that river Ganga is polluted and if so what is the level of pollution and what are the specific causes for pollution;

(b) whether Government intends to clean Ganga;

(c) whether any comprehensive plan has been drawn in this regard and if so, the details thereof including the funds required therefor; and

(d) whether any work has been started in this regard and if so, the progress achieved, so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION (SHRI SANWAR LAL JAT):

(a) As per the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB), the Ganga river stretches at downstream of Raiwala to Roorkee, downstream in Uttarakhand, from Garhmukteshwar to downstream Anoopshahar and from Kannauj to Trighat in Uttar Pradesh and from Baharampore to Uluberia in West Bengal are not conforming to the notified standards prescribed by CPCB. These stretches have been identified as polluted, based on Bio-chemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) levels, a key indicator of organic pollution, exceeding desired water quality of 3 mg/l BOD. Population growth, rapid urbanization, industrialization combined with abstraction of water for irrigation, industries and other uses lead to increase in pollution load of rivers. Discharge of untreated and partially treated industrial and municipal wastewater from towns along the rivers constitutes the major source of pollution in rivers.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Union Budget 2014-15 has set up an Integrated Ganga