

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION (SUSHRI UMA BHARATI): (a) German Government has shown interest in partnering with India for the rejuvenation of River Ganga and has offered to commit 3 million Euros for this purpose during the Indo-German Government negotiations held in November 2014. An appraisal mission in this regard is currently in India to finalise the objectives and activities of cooperation as well as to formulate concrete projects for the initial assistance.

(b) and (c) The nature of the Indo-German collaboration for Ganga Rejuvenation is currently under formulation and no formal Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed yet.

(d) The potential areas of technical and financial cooperation have been identified in the Scoping Mission conducted in October 2014 which includes River basin planning, Institutional setting, Technology, Research, Hot spot definition, prioritization, basin wide monitoring and evaluation, Capacity Building for Urban Local Bodies, industrial pollution abatement, knowledge sharing, innovative financing models for industrial and urban pollution abatement, assistance in managing funds, establishing public and/or private investment funds, etc.

Reimbursement of expenditure on water projects

2074. SHRI C.M. RAMESH : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any policy in place to reimburse the expenditure incurred by the State Governments, including Andhra Pradesh, in executing water related projects though they are not considered as National Projects; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and 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) and (b) No, Sir. The Govt. does not have any policy for reimbursement of the expenditure incurred by the State Government during the previous years in executing water related projects, which are not considered as a National Project. There is no provision for such reimbursement in the guidelines for central assistance for water related schemes.

Constitution of Cauvery Management Board

2075. SHRI T. K. RANGARAJAN : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has received a memorandum from Cauvery Delta Farmers'

Association urging the constitution of Cauvery Management Board and Cauvery Water Regulation Committee; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

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

(b) The Governments of Tamil Nadu and Karnataka have taken contradictory stands on the issue of constitution of Cauvery Management Board/Cauvery Water Regulatory Committee. As such, there is a need to meticulously consider the matter from all angles before taking a decision.

Conservation, promotion and protection of water

2076. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether water level in the country is rapidly falling down due to excessive use of ground water for industrial, domestic and agriculture purposes;

(b) if so, the measures being taken by Government to check it;

(c) whether Government has formulated any policy for conservation, promotion and protection of water at national level; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION (SHRI SANWAR LAL JAT): (a) and (b) Ground water levels in various parts of the Country are declining due to continuous exploitation as a result of growth in population, increased industrialization and irrigation. The Central Ground Water Authority (CGWA) has notified 162 areas in the country for the purpose of regulation of ground water development, wherein, exploitation of ground water for any use other than drinking and domestic purpose is not permitted. In addition, Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) has prepared a conceptual document entitled "Master Plan for Artificial Recharge to Ground Water in India," which envisages construction of different types of Artificial Recharge and Rainwater Harvesting structures in the Country in an area of 9,41,541 square km by harnessing surplus monsoon runoff to augment ground water resources. A National Water Mission, has also been set up to *inter-alia*, promote conservation of water resources. This Ministry has also circulated a Model Bill to all the States/Union Territories to regulate/control, develop, and manage ground water. Moreover, initiatives