Setting up of a Ganga University in Varanasi

2395. SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Ministry is planning to set up a Ganga University in Varanasi to undertake study and research on the rejuvenation of Ganga and other rivers of India and provide a boost to the Centre's Swachh Ganga Abhiyan;

(b) if so, the details thereof and whether the State Government of Uttar Pradesh has provided the necessary land and other helps as agreed to by them; and

(c) by when the proposed university would start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION (SUSHRI UMA BHARATI): (a) No Sir. Setting up a Ganga Research University in Varanasi is currently not under consideration of the Union Government.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of reply to Part (a) above.

Studies on Mahanadi-Godavari river link project

2396. SHRI PYARIMOHAN MOHAPATRA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any further study has been made by Government into the impact to Mahanadi-Godavari river link project after the feasibility report submitted by the National Water Development Agency in 2003;

(b) the details of the 2003 study and any further study indicating especially the cost benefit analysis in respect of Odisha, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana; and

(c) the reasons for Government not commissioning further studies to avoid large scale submersion and displacement in Odisha?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION (SUSHRI UMA BHARATI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The brief description of Mahanadi-Godavari link as per Feasibility Report (FR) is given in the Statement (*See* below). The benefit cost ratio of the link project as per FR works out to 1.60.

(c) The Government is pursuing the Interlinking of Rivers programme in a consultative manner and since the Government of Odisha was not agreeable for the

Mahanadi (Manibhadra) - Godavari (Dowlaiswaram) link due to large submergence involved in Manibhadra dam proposed under the link project, further studies after FR could not be taken up. However, based on the suggestions of Water Resources Department, Government of Odisha, National Water Development Agency (NWDA) has prepared a revised preliminary proposal of Mahanadi-Godavari Link Project with reduced submergence. It was presented to Government of Odisha on 29.05.2015. Based on the comments/views of Government of Odisha further study of Mahanadi (Manibhadra)-Godavari (Dowlaiswaram) is envisaged.

Statement

Mahanadi (Manibhadra)-Godavari (Dowlaiswaram) Link – Brief details as per the Feasibility Report of 2003

The Mahanadi-Godavari link project envisages diversion of about 12,165 MCM of water annually from the proposed Manibhadra dam on river Mahanadi to Godavari to serve the demands of Manibhadra Right Bank Canal, provide irrigation to enroute areas and for further transfer of 6,500 MCM to meet the requirements of water short areas in southern peninsula. The water conductor system consists of 828 km lined canal (including 6.15 km of tunnel) lying in the States of Odisha and Andhra Pradesh. The capacity of the canal at head is 802 Cumecs. The link canal will cross major rivers like Rushikulya, Bahuda, Vamsadhara, Nagavali, Champavati before it falls into river Godavari at Dowlaiswaram barrage.

The link project will irrigate 4.43 lakh ha. (3.52 lakh ha. in Odisha in the districts of Nayagarh, Khurda, Cuttack, Puri, Ganjam and Gajapati and 0.91 lakh ha. in Andhra Pradesh in the districts of Srikakulam, Vijayanagaram and Vishakhapatnam) using 3,790 MCM of water. Besides, the link will provide domestic and industrial water supply to the tune of 366 MCM and 436 MCM respectively. A quantity of 6,500 MCM water will be discharged into Godavari river at Dowlaiswaram barrage for further transfer to south, after losing 1,073 MCM in transmission. The total hydropower capacity envisaged in the project is 445 MW.

The total cost of the project at 2003-04 price level is ₹ 17,541 crores. The benefit cost ratio works out to 1.60 and the internal rate of return work out to 12.77%.

Preserving ponds and lakes

2397. SHRI DARSHAN SINGH YADAV:
SHRI P. BHATTACHARYA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state: