

(b) whether it is also a fact that the ratification of International Labour Organization Convention on Seafarers' Identity Documents would benefit about 1.8 lakh Indians; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING (SHRI NITIN JAIRAM GADKARI): (a) Yes, Sir. Government has approved on 10.06.2015 the ratification of International Labour Organisation (ILO) Convention No. 185 on the Seafarers Identity Document (SID). The Ministry of External Affairs has been requested to arrange for the instrument of ratification and to obtain the signature of President of India on the instrument. Thereafter, the formal ratification of this Convention shall be communicated to the Director General of International Labour Organisation (ILO) for registration. This Convention shall come into force after six months from the date on which its ratification has been registered.

(b) and (c) The biometric based seafarer's identity document will be developed, mainly, to ensure a security system to ward off the potential risk of breach of security and possible terrorist attacks. India's ratification of this Convention will benefit Indian seafarers, who may otherwise find a threat to their job opportunities, in the near future. Around 1.8 lakh seafarers will benefit from the ratification of this Convention.

The proposed SID has provisions for bar coding of the biometrics based identity of seafarers and a centralized data base maintained in the issuing country, which can be accessed globally through an inter-operable and standard biometric template. Indian Seafarer holding SID will be able to have unrestrictive movement in foreign shores during leave, get recognition as identified seafarers in the Global market and will have easy access to better job opportunities in Global maritime sector.

#### **Water conservation in rural areas**

\*217. SHRI DEREK O'BRIEN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of Government schemes to support and increase water conservation in rural areas;

(b) the number of villages that have been selected and started activities under the Jal Gram Yojana and the current status of these activities; and

(c) the measures in place to ensure involvement of Panchayati Raj Institutions and other local bodies in leading and participating in rural water conservation efforts?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION (SUSHRI UMA BHARATI): (a) The Government of

India has launched a Scheme for Repair, Renovation and Restoration (RRR) of water bodies which has multiple objectives like comprehensive improvement and restoration of water bodies thereby increasing tank storage capacity, ground water recharge etc. Under the RRR Scheme, the works of 1933 water bodies have been completed with domestic support and ₹ 917.259 crore has been released at the end of March, 2015. The Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) has undertaken the demonstrative rain water harvesting and artificial recharge projects under the Scheme of "Ground Water Management and Regulation", in priority areas including rural areas of the country during Eleventh Plan. Total of 133 demonstrative recharge projects have been taken up for construction of artificial recharge structures in 22 States by CGWB during Eleventh Plan. The Government of India has established National Water Mission (NWM) under National Action Plan on Climate Change. The main objective of NWM is "conservation of water, minimizing wastage and ensuring its more equitable distribution both across and within States through integrated water resources development and management".

(b) and (c) The Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation has launched Jal Kranti Abhiyan which includes Jal Gram Yojana. 125 Jal Grams have been identified. Jal Gram Yojana has a provision for selection of two water stressed villages in each district of the country.

The measures in place to ensure involvement and participation of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) and other associations under Jal Gram Yojana include Repair, Renovation and Restoration of existing and abandoned water bodies (reservoirs, tanks, ponds etc.), rainwater harvesting, artificial recharge of ground water, re-cycling of waste water, mass awareness programme, micro irrigation for water use efficiency, reclamation of water logged areas, community based water monitoring, pollution abatement (surface and ground water), etc.

#### **Status of Ultra Mega Power Projects**

\*218. SHRI KIRANMAY NANDA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the status of setting up of Ultra Mega Power Projects (UMPPs) in the country;

(b) the steps proposed to be taken by Government to expedite the work of the delayed projects;

(c) the number of power projects lying pending/incomplete in the country, including Haryana; and