

October, 2013, the two Governments signed a Memorandum of Understanding on Strengthening Cooperation on Trans-border Rivers. The Joint Statement issued during Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's visit to China in May, 2015 states, "The two sides will further strengthen cooperation through the Expert Level mechanism on the provision of flood-season hydrological data and emergency management and exchange views on other issues of mutual interest".

Tunnel through Seshachalam Hills

944. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice that in Andhra Pradesh a tunnel is being constructed through the Holy Seshachalam Hills at Tirupati to supply Handri Neeva Sujala Sravanthi (HNSS) water upto the Nagari ignoring Agama Shastras and objections of Tirumala Tirupati priests; and

(b) if so, whether Central Government would consider intervening in the matter and offering suitable advice to the State Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION (SHRI SANWAR LAL JAT): (a) and (b) Since Handri Neeva Sujala Sravanthi (HNSS) is purely a drinking water supply scheme, this Ministry is not involved in the techno-economic appraisal of the same.

The Krishna River Management Board (KRMB) has, however, informed that the proposed alignment of HNSS is not passing through the holy Seshachalam Hills.

Construction of small check dams in Chhattisgarh

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

(a) whether in Sanna area specially in Jashpur and Sarguja districts of Chhattisgarh, lots of small rivers are there in which water flows throughout the year which goes waste;

(b) whether small check dams at a few distances can be built so that water could be stored and the water level could go up and help in water harvesting; and

(c) what action Government would take to store water which is going waste in the above districts of the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION (SHRI SANWAR LAL JAT): (a) In Sarguja district, there are mainly five perennial rivers *i.e.* Ghunghutta, Gagar, Maini, Mand and Rehar whereas there are two perennial rivers namely Eb and Kanhar in Sanna area of Jashpur district.

(b) Small check dams can be constructed on these rivers after establishing site suitability, hydrology, water availability and safety of the structures as well as adjoining population/area as per requirement for water conservation.

(c) Water being a State subject, planning, execution and operation and management of irrigation projects are carried out by the State Government as per their own requirement and priority of works. The role of Central Government is technical, advisory, catalytic and promotional in nature. The State Government of Chhattisgarh has implemented a number of schemes for conservation and storing of water mainly:

- (i) During the period 2006-07 to 2014-15, 1968 works have been undertaken for water conservation, water harvesting and micro irrigation under MGNREGA in Sarguja district; and 560 works in Sanna area of Jashpur district. During 2015-16, 714 works have been sanctioned in Sarguja and 196 works have been sanctioned in Sanna area of Jashpur.
- (ii) 44 artificial recharge structures such as talab/earth dam/check dam/water hole in Jashpur Forest Division and 546 such structures have been constructed in Sarguja forest area for conservation of water.

Funds for Polavaram Project

946. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount committed and the extent of funds released so far by Government for Polavaram Project in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) the progress of project and the total amount required, with State and Central share; and

(c) the time by which it is expected to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION (SHRI SANWAR LAL JAT): (a) As per the Provisions of Andhra Pradesh Reorganization Act, 2014 Government of India is committed to provide 100% funds for the construction