

Fresh water availability in A.P. and Telangana

1752. DR. K.V.P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government agrees that dwindling of fresh water supplies, inequitable access to water and corporate control of water are undermining the interests of low income groups in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana; and

(b) if so, what steps are being taken/ contemplated to address the issue in the near and long term?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION (SHRI SANWAR LAL JAT): (a) and (b) Governments of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana have informed that interests of low income groups are not being undermined due to dwindling of fresh water supplies, inequitable access to water and corporate control of water.

State Governments undertake several measures to augment the water resources which, *inter-alia*, include conservation of water resources in reservoirs and traditional water bodies, rain water harvesting and artificial recharge of ground water. Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation provides technical and financial assistance to the State Governments in this regard through various schemes and programmes.

State Governments also take necessary action for creation of infrastructure for providing safe drinking water to the people of the State including low income groups. The Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation supplements the efforts of the States by providing them technical and financial assistance under the centrally sponsored National Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) for providing safe and adequate drinking water facilities in rural areas of the country. Ministry of Urban Development is supplementing the efforts of State Governments/Urban Local Bodies in providing water supply in urban areas/Metropolitan cities under the different schemes/programmes.

Central Government has launched the National Water Mission with the objective of conservation of water, minimizing wastage and ensuring its more equitable distribution both across and within States through integrated water resources development and management.

Central Government has formulated the National Water Policy, 2012 which has

made several recommendations for conservation, development and improved management of water resources in the country. The Policy has recognized safe water for drinking and sanitation as pre-emptive needs. The policy has also recommended that water needs to be managed as a common pool community resources held, by the State, under public trust doctrine to achieve food security, support livelihood, and ensure equitable and sustainable development for all.

Cleaning of Ganga and Yamuna

1753. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has taken note of the poor state of rivers in the country;
- (b) whether Government plans to announce any initiative or scheme to clean all the major rivers in the country, in addition to Ganga and Yamuna;
- (c) if so, the details thereof along with targets and budget allocated river-wise; and
- (d) 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) Yes, Sir. The Government is aware of the pollution in river water in the country. Cleaning of river Ganga and its tributaries is being undertaken by Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation (MOWR, RD & GR) under Namami Gange programme while Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF & CC) has been supplementing the efforts of the State Governments in abatement of pollution in identified stretches of various rivers under the National River Conservation Plan (NRCP).

Various pollution abatement schemes taken-up under the programmes, *inter-alia*, include interception and diversion of raw sewage, construction of sewerage systems, setting up of sewage treatment plants, low cost sanitation facilities, electric/improved wood crematoria and river front development.

(c) and (d) Conservation of rivers is a continuous and ongoing process. The Central Government approved the Namami Gange program on 13th May, 2015 as a comprehensive approach to rejuvenate the river Ganga and all tributaries under one