

**Drying up of Sriram Sagar reservoir area**

\*177. DR. K.V. P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that Sriram Sagar reservoir area on Godavari river has become a dry bed between Nizamabad and Adilabad districts affecting irrigation and drinking water facilities;

(b) if so, the steps being taken to address the problem; and

(c) if not, whether Government would study the phenomenon that has occurred even before the onset of summer and help the State in undertaking remedial measures?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION (SUSHRI UMA BHARATI): (a) to (c) State Government of Telangana has informed that due to failure of monsoon-2015, inflows into Sriram Sagar Project were in the range of 2.54 thousand million cubic feet (TMC) resulting in drying up of reservoir areas. As on 1st June, 2015 *i.e.* start of water year 2015-16, reservoir level was 1058.00 feet with corresponding storage of 11.496 TMC. Full Reservoir Level (FRL) of the project is 1091.00 feet with corresponding storage of 90.31 TMC. As on 5th March, 2016, the water level in reservoir was 1048.20 feet with corresponding storage of 5.256 TMC including dead storage of 5.00 TMC. In view of this situation, State Government has informed that no water was released for irrigation purposes. The available water will meet only drinking water needs up to end of May, 2016.

In India, by and large, storage dams are owned, constructed, maintained and operated by the respective State Governments. Water being a State subject, steps to ensure sustainability of water resources are undertaken by respective State Governments depending on their priority and resources. They accordingly formulate water storage schemes to ensure water availability during lean period/season for meeting various demands. In order to supplement the efforts of State Governments, Government of India provides technical and financial assistance.

Further, looking to India Meteorological Department (IMD) forecast for below normal seasonal rainfall during monsoon-2015, Chairman, Central Water Commission had issued an advisory on 2nd June, 2015 to State Governments suggesting as under:

There is an urgent need to utilize the available water resources prudently to tide over any possible water shortage in days to come.

It would be wise to assess the storage position in respect of projects under your jurisdiction and assess the water availability prior to monsoon.

The total water availability in the oncoming monsoon can be assessed and drinking water and irrigation allocations may be planned accordingly so that available water of 2015-16 hydrologic year may last fully without causing distress.

The States were also advised to plan for judicious use of surface water, deploy ground water resources to tide over shortages and also to make contingency plans for adequate water for animal use for handling the distress.

While planning the cropping patterns for the oncoming agricultural season(s), the strategy for avoiding water intensive crops to the extent required may be chalked out in consultation with the relevant departments and experts.

To make district level contingency plans against each reservoir to handle the likely drought situation in the State especially ensuring drinking water for population and animals for the entire year 2015-16.

#### **Additional funds for States under MGNREGA**

\*178. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether some States and the civil society activists have demanded release of additional funds for rural job scheme MGNREGA;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that sufficient funds were not allocated to States during 2015-16;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor along with the funds allocated to each State for the current financial year and during the last two years; and

(e) the steps taken for allocation of additional funds to States so that the poor beneficiaries under the scheme do not suffer on account of fund crunch?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHAUDHARY BIRENDER SINGH): (a) and (b) The Central funds are released to the States/UTs on the basis of agreed to Labour Budget and taking into consideration the performance and the pace of utilization of available funds. The Ministry of Rural Development has been allocated additional funds under Mahatma Gandhi NREGA for the remaining period in the current FY 2015-16 and accordingly, additional funds are being made available to the States.