

(d) the steps proposed to curb the blasting till safety and environmental guidelines are in place?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION (SHRI SANWAR LAL JAT): (a) The Government of Andhra Pradesh has constituted a multi-disciplinary committee on 27-04-2016 to monitor the implementation of conditions stipulated by Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change while according clearance to Polavaram Project.

(b) Polavaram Project Authority (PPA) has informed that they have not received the recommendations of National Green Tribunal concerning the Polavaram Dam.

(c) and (d) PPA has informed that the blasting operations for the excavation of rock portion in the Polavaram Irrigation Project are carried out by the agency in accordance with the safety precautions as per clause built into the Contract document. The concerned agency has also obtained a 'No Objection Certificate' from the concerned authorities.

Only adequate quantity of explosives is used to have desired fragmentation at site. As per the explosives rules, emulsion base explosives are only used.

Further, the storage, transportation and handling of explosives during blasting operations are in accordance with the Indian Explosives Act and other relevant rules duly taking all precautionary measures to prevent any possible damages to human habitations, structures and to safeguard the lives of human beings.

#### **Implementation of key water related schemes**

950. SHRI A. W. RABI BERNARD: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has decided to implement key water related schemes in a time bound manner and also decided to bring State Governments to implement these schemes;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has come out with a National Water Law which may also take care of the management of Inter-State river basins and conserve existing water resources and ensure equal distribution of water; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION (SHRI SANWAR LAL JAT): (a) and (b) Central Government supplements the efforts of the State Governments for conservation, development and improved management of water resources by way of technical and financial assistance through various schemes/programmes *viz.* Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP), Scheme for Repair, Renovation and Restoration (RRR) of water bodies etc. Central Government has launched the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) in 2015-16 to improve access to irrigation and mitigate risk of farmers by providing assured irrigation. The PMKSY scheme under its various components envisages to enhance the irrigation facilities in an area of 28.5 lakh hectares from 2015-16 to 2019-20. The AIBP component of PMKSY focuses on faster completion of ongoing Major and Medium Irrigation Projects including National Projects.

(c) and (d) This Ministry had constituted a Committee headed by Dr. Y.K. Alagh for drafting National Water Framework Law on 3rd July, 2012. The Committee submitted its Report to the Government in May, 2013. The report has been circulated among all States/Union Territories and related Central Ministries and also placed on the website of the Ministry.

The National Draft Water Framework Bill proposes to establish a framework with governing principles for protection, conservation and regulation of waters and for matters connected and incidental thereto. The salient features of the draft National Water Framework Bill are at the Statement (*See below*).

A Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. Mihir Shah has been constituted on 28.12.2015 to examine the provisions of the draft National Water Framework Law and suggest changes/modifications therein taking into account *inter-alia* the emerging challenges in the water sector, reuse of waste water after treatment, the likely impact of climate change on water resources, importance of river rejuvenation, water contamination issue etc.

#### ***Statement***

##### *The salient features of draft National Water Framework Bill*

- (1) The draft National Water Framework Bill proposes to establish an umbrella statement of general principles governing the exercise of legislative and/or executive (or devolved) powers by the Centre, the States and the local governing bodies, which should lead the way for essential legislation on water governance in every State of the Union and devolution of necessary authority to the lower tiers of Government to deal with the local water situation.
- (2) It proposes eighteen Basic Principles for Water Management to bring different State legal interventions within a framework of governing principles and alignment

of existing legislations both at the Central as well as State level to conform to the principles and provisions of this Bill.

- (3) It proposes that every individual should have a right to a minimum quantity of potable water (not less than 25 litres per capita per day) for essential health and hygiene and within easy reach of the household, which may be provided free of cost to eligible households, being part of pre-emptive need.
- (4) It proposes establishment of an independent statutory Water Regulatory Authority by every State for ensuring equitable access to water for all and its fair pricing on volumetric basis, for drinking and other uses such as sanitation, agricultural and industrial.
- (5) It proposes that all water resources projects conform to the River Basin Master Plan to be prepared, applicable efficiency benchmarks and take into account all social and environmental aspects in addition to techno-economic considerations.
- (6) It proposes that the groundwater be protected, conserved and regulated through appropriate laws and by adequate and efficient measures using precautionary approach, with active participation of Community Based Institutions.
- (7) It proposes conformance to the Service Level Benchmarks for water supply, sanitation, solid waste management and storm water drainage, as may be prescribed.
- (8) It proposes that Industries either withdraw only the make-up water or have an obligation to return treated effluent to a specified standard back to the hydrologic system and to file annual 'Water returns'.
- (9) It proposes that the appropriate Government take all possible measures to synergise and integrate/different development schemes including schemes for water conservation, sanitation and improvement of water quality at Panchayat or Municipality level, as the case may be, and further at sub basin and basin level.
- (10) It proposes that a High Powered Committee be set up at the Centre and in each State for coordination and policy support mechanism between different agencies dealing with water etc.

#### **Underground water level**

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

- (a) whether Government is aware that the American researchers have conducted a study and declared that the underground water level in some parts of India is alarming;