

are envisaged for each of the selected Jal Grams to ensure optimum and sustainable utilisation of water.

- Central Government has launched 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'. One of the goals of National Water Mission is 'Promotion of citizen and State action for water conservation, augmentation and preservation.'
- Recycle and reuse of water, after treatment to specified standards as well as rainwater harvesting and artificial recharge are being incentivized through various initiatives, programmes/ schemes of the Government.
- This Ministry has also formulated a National Perspective Plan (NPP) envisaging inter-basin transfer of water. The implementation of NPP would give benefits of approximately 35 million hectare of additional irrigation potential and 34000 MW Hydro Power generation apart from the incidental benefits of flood moderation, navigation, drinking and industrial water supply, fisheries, salinity and pollution control etc.
- Various Mass Awareness Programmes, Water Management Training Programmes and other Trainings, Workshops, Painting Competitions etc. are organized by this Ministry to encourage and support good practices for augmenting, conserving and utilizing water in the country.

(b) and (c) The Long Term Average (LPA) rainfall of India is 89 cm. There is temporal and spatial variability of rainfall in India, about 80% rain occurs during four months *i.e.* Monsoon season. There is, therefore, a real possibility of transferring water from the water surplus to the deficit basins.

There is an increasing realization globally for river basin level integrated water resources management. Some of the most successful water resources management cases are based on this principle. In the light of the current water scarcity, many Parliamentarians have also raised this issue for greater powers at the central level to effectively deal with the challenges of water scarcity. There is, therefore, a need for a larger debate on this issue to arrive at a considered decision.

#### **Environmental flow in rivers**

1742. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the environmental flows in all rivers and tributaries of Ganga river system are maintained round the year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the corrective steps taken by Government in this regard in order to fulfil their geological, ecological, socioeconomical and cultural functions with consensus of all affected people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION (SHRI SANWAR LAL JAT): (a) No, Sir. The environmental flows in all rivers and tributaries of Ganga river system are not maintained. Central Water Commission (CWC) has informed that the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF and CC) decides the environmental flows to be released from the river valley projects to meet the ecological needs of the river. Accordingly the project authorities are advised for the release of the same.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The main reasons for not maintaining the environmental flow are: (i) The geographical location of the river system, (ii) The unpredictable nature of the monsoon rainfall which is sometimes very weak and (iii) man-made reasons such as diverting water from the rivers for agricultural, industrial and other uses.

However, one of the action points in the 7 identified thrust areas of Namami Gange Programme is maintaining Aviral Dhara *i.e.* taking up comprehensive measures to determine and maintain environmental flow which is site, season and river specific and ensuring longitudinal connectivity.

(d) The Environment flow studies are an integral part of project specific Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) study. Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF and CC) conducts these studies. The environment flow to be released from river valley projects are finalized based on these studies. MoEF and CC conducts these studies.

#### **Fast tracking of dam projects**

1743. SHRI MOHD. ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether some State Governments have requested the Central Government to fast track dam projects; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise, and the action taken, so far, including Andhra Pradesh and Telangana?