

The Government envisages a comprehensive assessment of the feasibility of linking of the rivers of the country in a fully consultative manner.

**Restoration of water bodies**

†1453. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to restore five lakh water bodies in the country;

(b) if so, by when this decision is likely to be implemented;

(c) the additional amount of water likely to be available in the country as a result thereof; and

(d) the additional land in the country which would be irrigated with this water?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (d) The Finance Minister in the Budget Speech, 2004-05 has proposed to launch a scheme to repair, renovate and restore Water Bodies in the country that are directly linked to agriculture. To begin with a pilot project in atleast five districts is proposed for the current year. The Finance Minister has also announced launching of National Water Resources Development Project after completion of the Pilot Projects and its validation. The Government is in the process of finalising details about taking up the scheme. The additional water likely to be available and land to be irrigated depends on the actual schemes to be prepared for the purpose after the completion of the Pilot Project.

**Accelerated Irrigation benefit programme**

†1454. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a programme was launched for getting the accelerated irrigation benefits in the country;

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.