

(b) if so, when this programme has been undertaken;

(c) the total amount spent under programme till March, 2004; and

(d) the additional irrigation capacity generated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (d) The Central Government launched the accelerated irrigation benefits Programme (AIBP) during 1996-97 to provide Central Loan Assistance (CLA) for accelerating implementation of such ongoing approved major/medium irrigation projects which are in an advanced stage of completion and which are beyond the resources capability of the State Government. An amount of Rs. 14,670 crore has been released as CLA under this programme for 181 major/medium and 3810 surface water minor irrigation schemes since inception of the programme. Under this programme an irrigation potential of 2,195 thousand hectare has been created upto March, 2003 through Major & Medium projects and 67.35 thousand hectare through surface water minor irrigation schemes upto March, 2004.

Salinity Ingress in coastal areas

1455. SHRI S.P.M. SYED KHAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details regarding salinity ingress in the coastal areas in Tamil Nadu and other States;

(b) what remedial steps and preventive measures have been taken by Government to address the salinity ingress in the coastal areas in the country; and

(c) the details of funds allocated for this purpose during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Studies undertaken by the Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) have shown salinity ingress in Minjur area, Tiruvallur district and localized pockets in Radhapuram-Kuttam area, Tirunelveli district of Tamil Nadu. Some parts of coastal areas of West Bengal, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat and Union Territories of Diu & Pondicherry have also been found affected by ingress of sea water in low-lying areas and rivers.

(b) Water being a State subject, it is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Governments to take remedial steps and preventive measures to address the salinity ingress in the coastal areas in the country. As per information received from the State Governments, measures taken by them are as given below:

State/UTs	Steps taken
Tamil Nadu	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Withdrawal of ground water from Minjur well field has been stopped. * Obtaining a license for sinking of wells and energizing them with pumps more than 1 HP has been made mandatory in the area falling under the jurisdiction of Chennai Metropolitan Development Area. * Installation of rain water harvesting system has been made mandatory for all buildings.
Gujarat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * A High Level Committee has been appointed to study the salinity problem of Saurashtra and Kutch Region and to suggest remedial measures. The Committee has recommended various remedial measures like constructing tidal regulators, bandhara, recharge trench, recharge well, recharge reservoirs, spreading channel etc. Construction of such structures have been taken up by the Government of Gujarat.
Andhra Pradesh	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * The State Government has provided 14 destination plants along the coastal habitations and surface water through comprehensive piped water supply schemes.
Pondicherry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Ground water extraction from wells within 6 KM of the coastline, for all purposes other than drinking, without the permission of the competent authority, has been banned. * Installation of rain water harvesting system has been made mandatory for buildings.

Besides, the CGWB has also undertaken a project during IX Plan under the scheme of 'Study of recharge to Ground Water' for salinity

ingress and ground water Recharge in Bhadrak, Kendrapara and Puri districts of Orissa.

(c) No specific funds have been allocated for the purpose of taking remedial steps and preventive measures for salinity ingress.

Clearance of irrigation projects from Himachal Pradesh

†1456. SHRI KRIPAL PARMAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that project reports of Rs. 9 crore 59 lakh and 81 thousand relating to irrigation projects and installation of tube wells for irrigation of 4181 hectare of land under Bhavarana block in Distt. Kangra, Sorba Ghat Tehsil in Distt. Mandi and Nalagarh Tehsil in Distt. Solan were forwarded by Government of Himachal Pradesh vide its letter dated 28th July 2001 for clearance;

(b) if so, the action taken thereon and the reasons for its pendency so far; and

(c) by when a final decision would be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) All the three projects submitted by the Government of Himachal Pradesh vide its letter dated 28th July 2001 have already been included under the Centrally Sponsored Command Area Development Programme by the Ministry of Water Resources.

Indo-Bhutan Joint River Commission

1457. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up an Indo-Bhutan Joint River Commission to prevent floods in the northern part of West Bengal; and

(b) if so, the progress made so far and the steps taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) In

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.