

River Inter-Linking Project

1452. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

SHRI B. J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that as part of the river-linking project, Ganga would be inter-linked with Subarnarekha, Subarnarekha with Mahanadi and Mahanadi with river Godavari, which in-turn would control floods in Orissa;

(b) if so, whether this project has been approved by all concerned States;

(c) whether the task force has submitted its proposal in this regard and if so, the brief recommendations thereof; and

(d) if not, by when it would submit its report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The river linking programme envisages construction of reservoirs and link canals which inter-alia provide some flood control benefits to many areas including those in Orissa.

(b) The State Governments while agreeing to the concept of inter linking of rivers in general have raised some apprehensions on technical aspects of the link proposals.

(c) and (d) The Task Force submitted Action Plan-I on 30th April, 2003 giving the outline of the time schedules for the completion of the feasibility studies, detailed project reports, estimated cost, implementation schedule, concrete benefits and advantages of the project etc. The Task Force submitted Action Plan-II on 16.4.2004. The important issues such as appraisal; of individual projects in respect of economic viability, socio-economic impacts, environmental impacts and preparation of resettlement plans; suitable mechanism for bringing about speedy consensus amongst the States; prioritization of the different project components for preparation of detailed Project Reports and implementation; suitable organizational structure for implementing the project; various modalities for project funding; international dimensions that may be involved in some project components and cost recovery have been discussed in Action Plan-II.

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;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.