

[17 August, 2004]

RAJYA SABHA

**Programme for flood-affected States**

1466. SHRI SILVIUS CONDPAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any package programme for flood-affected States as in the case of package for drought-affected States; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Although the State Governments are primarily responsible for undertaking immediate relief measures in the areas affected by floods, assistance is also provided by the Central Government under two schemes namely "Calamity Relief Fund" (CRF) and "National Calamity Contingency Fund" (NCCF). The CRF is provided in the ratio of 75% central share and 25% State share whereas the financial assistance from the NCCF is provided in accordance with a laid down procedure. Central assistance is also provided to the various states under the Centrally Sponsored Schemes to take up critical flood management & anti erosion works.

**River Linking Project**

1467. SHRI DARA SINGH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of the proposed River Linking Project in the country;

(b) the name of the States which favour this project and the names of those who are against it;

(c) whether the Task Force set up for the purpose has submitted its report, and

(d) if so, the salient features thereof and action likely to be taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Feasibility Report of 11 link projects out of 30 identified link projects have been completed. Field surveys and investigations for preparation of feasibility

reports in respect of 19 links have been undertaken and are planned for completion by December, 2005.

(b) The State Governments in general are in agreement to the concept of inter-linking of rivers. The river interlinking programme is at present at feasibility report stage only. The Government envisages for a comprehensive assessment of the feasibility of linking of the rivers of the country in a fully consultative manner.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(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 scheduled, concrete benefits and advantages of the project etc. Action Plan-II was submitted on 16.4.2004. The important issues such as appraisal of individual projects in respect of economic viability, socioeconomic 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.

#### **Big size reservoirs**

†1468. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the country has 71 big size reservoirs to store rain and river water;

(b) if so, the number thereof, State-wise, along with the capacity of each reservoir; and

(c) the area of land being irrigated in the States with water of these reservoirs and the assessment of water going to be available for storage in each State?

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

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.