

readiness to meet the representatives of lakhs of displaced tribals, Scheduled Castes and farmers in April, 2018;

(b) whether it is a fact that a letter was sent from PPA dated 4th April, 2018 with NO. 7/1/PMO/2017/PPA/840 inviting them for a meeting;

(c) the reasons for cancelling the meetings and avoiding responses to Government's own offer;

(d) the steps proposed to initiate action for such delinquency; and

(e) the measure proposed to hold meetings urgently in a cordial atmosphere in public interest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION (SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL): (a) to (e) The works of Rehabilitation and Resettlement are carried out by the Government of Andhra Pradesh (AP). The State has set up district level grievance cell for sorting out grievances of displaced people, if any. Commissioner (R & R), Govt. of A.P. is the Appellate Authority at State level to dispose of any appeal against the decision(s) of district level grievance cell. This mechanism is aligned with Right to Fair Compensation and Transparency in Land Acquisition, Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act-2013.

As informed by the Polavaram Project Authority (PPA), it had sent a letter dated 4th April, 2018 to Dr. Pentapati Pulla Rao for a meeting with Chief Executive Officer, PPA in the matter related to displaced families of Polavaram Irrigation Project (PIP) on suggestion of Shri D. Raja, Hon'ble Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha). However, he has not intimated any date for meeting in this regard.

Depletion of groundwater level

2222. SHRI K. SOMAPRASAD: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study has been carried out regarding the groundwater level depletion across the nation, if so, the details and remedies thereof; and

(b) the details of funds released to Kerala to meet the drought situation from 2014-15 to 2017-18?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION (SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL):

(a) Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) carries out ground water monitoring four times a year in different States. In order to assess the declining/rising trend in water level on a long-term basis, pre-monsoon water level data 2018 has been compared with the decadal average (2008-2017) water level. Analysis of data indicates decline in ground water level in about 52% of the wells being monitored.

Water being a State subject, initiatives on water management including conservation and artificial recharge to ground water and revival of water bodies in the Country is primarily States' responsibility. However, steps taken by the Central Government for conservation of ground water are available at the following URL http://mowr.gov.in/sites/default/files/MeasuresForGW-Depletion_2.pdf

(b) Kerala has not submitted any Memorandum seeking financial assistance from the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) during the years 2014-15, 2015-16 and 2017-18.

However, Kerala sought an assistance of ₹ 1019.90 crore from NDRF in the wake of drought during 2016-17 (Kharif and Rabi). On the recommendations of Inter-Ministerial Central Team (IMCT) and the recommendations of Sub-Committee of National Executive Committee (SC-NEC) thereon, the High Level Committee (HLC) approved ₹ 112.05 crore from NDRF, subject to the adjustment of 50% of balance available in the SDRF account for the instant disaster.

Depletion of groundwater

2223. SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI:

DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Supreme Court recently asked the Centre for immediate, intermediary and long-term measures to check depletion of the groundwater in Delhi;

(b) if so, the response of Government;

(c) whether groundwater level is also depleting in various States, especially in Punjab;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and