Source: IMIS, DDWS.

Discussion on water dams in States

1013. SHRI K. R. ARJUNAN: Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government is considering to build water dams in many States to solve the enormous water problems;
 - (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether it is also a fact that Government had initiated discussions with the State Governments concerned in this regard; and
 - (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI (SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA): (a) to (d) The Water Resources Projects are planned, funded, executed and maintained by the State Governments themselves as per their own resources and priority. In order to supplement their efforts, Government of India provides technical and

financial assistance to State Governments to encourage sustainable development and efficient management of water resources through various schemes and programmes such as Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) under Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY).

During 2016-17, ninety-nine (99) on-going Major/Medium irrigation projects under PMKSY-(AIBP) having ultimate irrigation potential of 76.03 lakh ha. and balance estimated cost of ₹ 77595 crore [Central assistance (CA) component of ₹ 31342 crore] have been prioritized in consultation with States, for completion in phases up to December, 2019 along with their Command Area Development and Water Management (CADWM) works. CA of ₹9750.56 crore and ₹ 2380.31 crore has been released for these projects during 2016-17 to 2018-19 for AIBP and CADWM works respectively. Further, during the same period, CA of ₹ 5914.16 crore has been released for Polavaram National Project.

Interlinking of rivers for water management

1014. SHRI HARNATH SINGH YADAV: Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the problem of water scarcity can be addressed by streamlining the water management in the country;
 - (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of Government thereto;
- (c) whether the inter-linking of rivers can play a major role in water management;and
- (d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto along with the names of rivers selected so far for inter-linking?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI (SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA): (a) and (b) The average annual water availability of any region or country is largely dependent upon hydrological and geological factor and is generally constant. However, water availability per person is dependent on population of the country and for India per capita water availability in the country is reducing progressively due to increasing population. Moreover, due to high temporal and spatial variations in the precipitation, the water availability of many regions of the country is much below the national average, resulting in condition of water stress in such areas. This problem of water stress/scarcity can be addressed through balanced development and management of countryÊs water resources, with focus on both supply-side and demand-side solutions.