

Some initiatives/measures taken by the Central Government for water conservation and rain water harvesting are available at the URL: [http://mowr.gov.in/sites/default/files/MeasuresForGW-Depletion\\_1.pdf](http://mowr.gov.in/sites/default/files/MeasuresForGW-Depletion_1.pdf)

### **Dams on the Himalayas**

238. SHRI REWATI RAMAN SINGH: Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that fasting is being done by sages on account of dams on the Himalayas and to ensure uninterrupted flow of the Ganga stream;

(b) whether it is also a fact that many sages who were sitting on fast went missing; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI (SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA): (a) No, Sir. At present, there is no report of fasting by sages related to dams in Himalayas and for ensuring uninterrupted flow of Ganga.

(b) and (c) As informed by State authorities, there is no such instance of sage going missing, who was sitting on fast.

### **Provision of drinking water to households**

†239. SHRI RAM NATH THAKUR: Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any plan to ensure drinking water to every household through taps; and

(b) if so, whether priority will be given to these places where there is presence of Arsenic in groundwater?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI (SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA): (a) and (b) The matter is under consideration of the Government.

### **Price adjustment charges for Polavaram Project**

240. DR. K.V. P. RAMACHANDRA RAO: Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has not been reimbursing the expenditure

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† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

incurred by the State towards payment of price adjustment of labour, machinery and other materials in Polavaram Project under Government Order 22 and Government Order 67 issued by State;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the amount reimbursed so far; and

(c) the expenditure incurred by the State under this head in Polavaram Project till date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI (SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA): (a) and (b) Second Revised Cost Estimate of the Polavaram Irrigation Project accepted by the Advisory Committee on Irrigation, Flood Control and Multipurpose Projects of the Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, Ministry of Jal Shakti (formerly Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation) for ₹ 55,548.87 crore at 2017-18 price level on 11.02.2019 includes the increase in cost due to price escalation. Further, Central Water Commission (CWC) has intimated *vide* letter dated 07.05.2019 that the RCE of this project at PL 2013-14 is ₹ 54,466.1 crore. An amount of ₹ 6764.16 crore has been reimbursed from time to time since 01.04.2014 towards work done including price adjustment for the Project.

(c) As reported by the Government of Andhra Pradesh, the overall expenditure incurred on Polavaram project since inception till 07.06.2019 is ₹ 16876.93 crore.

#### **Cleaning of Ganga River**

241. SHRI ANIL DESAI: Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

(a) the present pollution level of river Ganga;

(b) the amount of money spent to clean Ganga water during the last three years; and

(c) whether any time-frame has been fixed to make river Ganga clean?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI (SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA): (a) Water quality of river Ganga is monitored at 94 locations in 5 main stem States through the respective SPCBs namely Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal. With respect to present pollution of river Ganga, water quality data received for March, 2019 from 87 locations in 5 States is given in the Statement (*See* below). The water quality data reflects faecal contamination in river Ganga in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal.

Due to various pollution abatement initiatives taken by the Government under the