of Detailed Project Report (DPR) of Mekedatu Balancing Reservoir-cum-Drinking Water Project by Project Authority (Government of Karnataka) with the condition that Government of Karnataka would resolve the inter-state matters amicably by due consultations with co-basin States of Cauvery Basin. As the main objective of this project as stated in the Feasibility Report is to implement the Cauvery Water Dispute Tribunal (CWDT) Award as modified by the Hon'ble Supreme Court, acceptance of DPR by Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA) is a pre-requisite for consideration of DPR by the Advisory Committee of DoWR, RD & GR. As per DPR, the project envisages meeting drinking water requirement of Bengaluru Metropolitan Region to the extent of 4.75 TMC and its adjoining area.

Exclusion of Punjab in Atal Bhujal Yojana

888. SHRI SANJAY SINGH: Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

(a)   whether it is a fact that Punjab which is one of the States with the highest groundwater depletion has been excluded from Atal Bhujal Yojana;

(b)   if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c)   whether Government plans to include Punjab?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI (SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA): (a) to (c) Government of India has approved Atal Bhujal Yojana (Atal Jal), a ₹6000 Crore Central Sector Scheme, for sustainable management of ground water resources with community participation in water stressed blocks of Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Rajasthan and Uttar Pradesh. The scheme is being implemented during the period 2020-21 to 2024-25 with the financial assistance of World Bank with a sharing pattern of 50:50 between Government of India and World Bank.

The names of the participating States were decided based on consultation, criticality of groundwater situation, willingness and degree of preparedness.

Safety of Hirakud dam in Odisha

889. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR SWAIN: Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

(a)   whether dams inside Mahanadi basin of Chhattisgarh are being operated as per any Standard Operating Procedure (SOP); and