

Rejuvenation of traditional water bodies

869. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR GUPTA: Will the Minister of JAL SHAKTI be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has any plan to start work pertaining to the rejuvenation of traditional water bodies, removal of encroachment in water bodies, desilting of lake ponds, construction/strengthening of inlets, catchment area treatment; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF JAL SHAKTI (SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA): (a) to (b) Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) was launched in 2015-16 with an aim to enhance physical access of water on farm and expand cultivable area under assured irrigation, improve on farm water use efficiency, introduce sustainable water conservation practices etc. Har Khet Ko Pani (HKKP) is one of the component of PMKSY. The scheme of Repair, Renovation and Restoration (RRR) of Water Bodies has become a part of PMKSY (HKKP).

The Repair, Renovation and Restoration (RRR) of Water Bodies Scheme aims at restoring irrigation potential by improvement and restoration of water bodies along with other multiple objectives such as enhancing the tank storage capacity, ground water recharge, increased availability of drinking water, improvement of catchment of tank commands etc.

Under the Repair, Renovation and Restoration (RRR) of Water Bodies scheme, since XIIth plan onwards, 2219 water bodies have been taken up with an estimated cost of ₹ 1910 crore. Central Assistance (CA) of ₹ 433 crore has been released to various states upto March, 2020. Further, 1465 water bodies have been completed upto March, 2020 as reported by states. Target irrigation potential restoration of these schemes is 1.888 Lakh Ha and out of this, 1.319 Lakh Ha is reported to be restored till March, 2020.

Financial packages to publications and broadcasting during COVID-19

870. SHRI RIPUN BORA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the media houses of the country have asked Government for financial packages to continue publications and broadcasting in a smooth manner during the COVID-19;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the press associations of North Eastern States have appealed to their respective State Governments to release minimum advertisement support from central quota; and

(d) payments pending since 2015 and proposal of Government to clear payments upto August, 2020, State-wise and newspaper-wise?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): (a) and (b) A proposal for removal of basic custom duty on newsprint was received from the newspaper industry, which has been taken up with Ministry of Finance for appropriate decision.

(c) The information sought is in the domain of the State Government and is not available centrally.

(d) The State-wise and newspaper-wise details of pending payments from 2015-16 is available on the website of Bureau of Outreach and Communication (BOC), *i.e.* www.davp.nic.in. Payments to media organizations in respect of campaigns undertaken by them is a continuous process and is done as per availability of funds placed by the Ministry/Department concerned.

Resuming of broadcasting services by AIR

871. SHRI KANAKAMEDALA RAVINDRA KUMAR: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that All India Radio (AIR) has stopped broadcasting of language services including Telugu, Tamil, Malayalam, Kannada by its External Services Division (ESD) at New Delhi since the announcement of nation-wide lockdown;

(b) the reasons for non-resuming of services including Indian languages by ESD of AIR when Government is relaxing various norms of lockdown;

(c) whether Government will come forward to resume the services by ESD of AIR in coming days;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?