

Setting up of Integrated Water Resource Management

1380. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government are thinking of setting up of an Integrated Water Resource Management;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether a meeting was held in the first week of December, 2002 in this regard; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) and (b) There is no proposal under consideration of the Government for setting up of an Integrated Water Resources Management. However, the National Water Policy-2002, emphasizes on Integrated Water Resources Development and Management. Integrated water resources development and management involves integrating the needs of all the sectors, and also requires judicious combination of major, medium, minor and micro schemes including watershed development, conjunctive use of surface and groundwater keeping in view the environmental and social factors.

(c) and (d) The Ministry of Water Resources is not aware of the meeting held in the first week of December, 2002 relating to the setting up of an Integrated Water Resource Management.

Formation of Indo-Bhutan River Commission

1381. SHRI TARINI KANTA ROY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government are aware that every year flood ravages Northern districts of West Bengal;
- (b) whether Government have agreed to form an Indo-Bhutan Joint River Commission as most of the rivers originate from Bhutan; and
- (c) if so, the time-frame thereof?

[4 March, 2003]

RAJYA SABHA

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A comprehensive scheme for establishment of Hydro-Meteorological and Flood Forecasting Network on rivers common to India and Bhutan is in operation to generate river flow data with a view to provide advance warning to authorities in North Bengal in the flood season. The scheme is overseen and periodically reviewed through the mechanism of Joint Expert Team, which has so far held seventeen meetings.

Further, it is now proposed to set up a Joint Team of Experts (JTE), consisting of representatives from Government of India and concerned State Governments for looking into Flood Forecasting, Prevention and Management aspect comprehensively, for which the matter has been taken up with the Royal Government of Bhutan.

Scheme to meet scarcity of water In the country

1382. SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently launched a scheme to meet the acute scarcity of water in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the allocation of funds for the project;

(d) whether any time schedule has been fixed for implementation of the project; and

(e) if so, to what extent this scheme is different from other such schemes?