

Seventeenth Loksabha

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Title: Regarding National Status for Eastern Rajasthan Canal Project (ERCP)-laid.

SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH (JHALAWAR-BARAN): My state Rajasthan covers about 10.4 per cent of geographical area, 5.5 per cent population, 19 per cent livestock and 14 per cent cultivable land, whereas it holds only 1.16 per cent of country's surface water and 1.72 per cent of ground water.

Regarding ground water status, there are 295 blocks out of which only 50 blocks are safe while 38 are semi-critical, 10 critical and 194 over-exploited. Hence, development of multi-purpose irrigation and drinking water project is crucial for the development of the region.

Eastern Rajasthan Canal Project (ERCP) is planned to harvest surplus yield available in the Southern Rajasthan rivers and transfer it to the deficit basins in South-Eastern Rajasthan. This scheme is planned to meet the drinking, irrigation and industrial water needs of 13 districts of Southern and South-Eastern Rajasthan. Diversion of 5,068 MCM water available from Rajasthan's own catchment area is proposed in this project. The project covers 23.67 per cent area and 41.13 per cent population of Rajasthan.

I request the hon. Minister to please evaluate ERCP according to "Guidelines for Implementation of National Project" and accord national status to the project.

