

(a) the details of pending Inter State river water sharing disputes;

(b) the steps taken by the Union Government to resolve these disputes and success achieved in each case;

(c) the present mechanism to resolve such disputes;

(d) whether the Union Government are considering to structure restructure the mechanism and make it more effective; and

(e) if so, the detail thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTRY OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P. K. THUNGON): (a) to (e) Government have already enacted Inter-State Water Disputes Act, 1956 to provide for the adjudication of disputes relating to waters of inter-State rivers and river valleys. Besides a Standing Committee on Inter-State Issues in Water Resources with Members drawn from the National Water Resources Council has been constituted in April, 1990 under the Chairmanship of Union Minister of Water Resources.

Under the provisions of the Inter-State Water Disputes Act, 1956, two disputes namely, sharing of surplus Ravi and Beas waters and sharing of Cauvery waters have been referred to the Tribunals in April, 1986 and June, 1990 respectively. The Ravi & Beas Waters Tribunal has given its report in January, 1987 and the Government of India and party States have made further reference as envisaged under the Act to seek explanation/guidance of the Tribunal on its Report. The Cauvery Water Disputes Tribunal has passed an Order on 25-6-91 granting interim relief to Tamil Nadu and Pondicherry. The Central Government gazetted the order of the tribunal on 10-12-1991 thereby making it final and binding on the parties to the dispute.

On the issue of sharing of Yamuna waters upto Okhla, an agreement on the quantum of utilisable surface flows of Yamuna to be shared by the co-basin States have already been reached under the auspices of the Standing Committee on Inter-State issues in Water Resources.

[English]

COAL MINES

2516. SHRI K. PRADHANI: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have conducted any research/survey to explore the possibility of coal mines in Gujarat and Orissa; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) and (b) Geological Survey of India (GSI), who are mainly responsible for carrying out the regional exploration to locate the coal reserves available in the various parts of the country, have established a total reserves of 46218.44 million tonnes in the State of Orissa till 1-1-1993 out of which 5714.45 million tonnes are in proved category. Large scale coal mining is already being carried out in this State.

Total coal reserves found upto now in Saurashtra region of the State of Gujarat has been estimated around 3 million tonnes. These deposits occur in very thin seams exploitation of which is not economically viable. In addition, occurrence of deposits of coal at considerable depths in Mehsana-Kalol areas of Gujarat has been reported during the course of exploration for oil by the Oil and Natural Gas Commission (ONGC). Mining of these deposits is not considered technically feasible.

FLOOD CONTROL PROJECT

2517. SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMALAH :
DR. D. VENKATESWARA RAO :
DR. ASIM BALA :
SHRI VILASRAO NAGNATHRAO
GUNDEWAR :
DR. KARTIKESWAR PATRA :
PROF. ASHOK ANADRAO
DESHMUKH :
SHRI M. KRISHNASWAMY :
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHRY :
SHRI RAM PAL SINGH :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the recent flood affected State;

(b) the steps taken by the Government to meet the situation arising out of recent floods in the country;

(c) whether Union Government have received any proposals from the State Governments for flood control projects;

(d) if so, the details thereof, Statewise;

(e) the action taken by the Union Government thereon;

(f) whether the Government are considering to divert the excess water of rivers into ponds of drought prone areas and also for power generation; and

(g) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P. K. THUNGON): (a) The names of recent flood affected States are Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Mizoram, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal.

(b) Steps have been taken for evacuation of marooned population, distribution of essential commodities including air dropping operation of relief camps and medical assistance.

(c) to (e) About 130 schemes have been received from Assam, Delhi, Gujarat, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Manipur, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh and West Bengal during last three years. After examination, 32 schemes have been cleared and 91 schemes have been referred back modifications clarifications. Examination of seven schemes have not been completed.

(f) and (g) Water balance studies to determine surplus water for transfer to deficit areas for irrigation and power generation have been taken up in two parts namely, Himalayan and Peninsular Components. Pre-feasibility studies for nine inter-basin links in the Peninsular Component have been completed so far.

ASSISTANCE TO KERALA FOR IRRIGATION PROJECTS

2518. PROF. K. V. THOMAS: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state the details of assistance given to Kerala for development of irrigation projects and check dam during each of the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI P. K. THUNGON): The Central Government does not give any special assistance for on-going major and medium irrigation projects. Allocations made by the Planning Commission for Irrigation Sector in Kerala during the years 1990-91, 1991-92 and 1992-93 are Rs. 93.95 crores, Rs. 103.90 crores and Rs. 120.00 crores respectively. Under Centrally Sponsored Command Area Development Programme amounts of Rs. 6.13 crores, Rs. 2.67 crores and Rs. 10.24 crores were released to the Government of Kerala during 1990-91, 1991-92 and 1992-93 respectively.

Check Bunds/Dams are one of the soil conservation treatment measures for control of soil erosion in the natural streams. Under Centrally Sponsored Schemes of soil conservation in the catchments of River Valley Projects, amounts released to the Government of Kerala for Soil Conservation programme in kundah catchment are Rs. 1.25 crores, Rs. 1.53 crores and Rs. 1.60 crores respectively during the years 1990-91, 1991-92 and 1992-93.

[Translation]

EXPLORATION IN SAURASHTRA-KUTCH REGION

2519. SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have undertaken exploration work to find out the possibility of oil and natural gas in Saurashtra-Kutch region of Gujarat;