

Re: Utilisation of Indian share of water under the Indus Water Treaty ? laid

SHRI RAVNEET SINGH (LUDHIANA): Punjab was once comfortably placed in terms of water availability but over the years, the situation deteriorated and there is huge shortage of water in the region. However, it is an irony that most of India's share of water borne out of Indus Water Treaty of 1960 has been flowing into Pakistan. Shahpur Kandi National Project aims to utilize the full water of River Ravi in Indian territory. This project which has been badly delayed has the potential to irrigate 5000 hectares of land in Punjab and 31,000 hectares of land in Jammu and Kashmir's Sambha and Kathua districts. This project besides helping in lifting socio-economic conditions of the people also has immense tourist potential. Due to decrease in flow at Harike wetland and deforestation etc. in the catchment area, the wetland is reducing drastically in last few years. Besides, it receives large quantities of untreated industrial effluents from surrounding cities through inflowing rivers, which is threatening its very existence. I urge upon the Government to take urgent measures towards speedy completion of Shahpur Kandi Project and better management of Harike wetland to ensure maximum utilisation of Indian share of water under Indus Water Treaty in the larger interest of Punjab.