

dredging operation of the river Hooghly in Calcutta—because until Haldia comes up, we are in great need of keeping the Calcutta Port operational.

SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN : Sir, we have called for the report from the Port authorities and we are waiting for it. Once we receive it, we will be able to proceed in the matter.

DR. K.P. RAMLINGAM : Hon. Speaker, Sir, due to non-availability of Railway wagons, wheat transport to Tamil Nadu is now heavily affected. Has the Minister got any proposal to allow shipping transport for wheat if a request is made from the traders and from the State Government?

SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN : If the proposal comes in, we will be able to look into the matter.

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI : Hon. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know whether the Government has got any plan or project or guideline to make use of the surplus funds that are with the major ports, particularly with the Kandia Port, for increasing the infrastructure facilities surrounding it. Why I am asking this because at the Kandia Port, they are not spending any money. They have got surplus funds but they are not using it for the infrastructure, for the widening of road, for cleaning and for creating hygienic conditions. People cannot stay there. All the labour class people stay in such bad hygienic conditions that they are not in a position to stay there. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether they are going to spend the surplus fund on the infrastructure or not.

SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN : Sir, this question is not a single question; he has put a complicated question. I will answer the points one after another. He has asked about the leasing of berths at Kandia Port. I am going to lay a statement showing the schemes, the projects which have been approved for private sector participation wherein first comes this Kandia Port and the leasing of Berth No.6 at Kandia Port to messrs. GP Corporation Limited, Bangkok for handling of bulk cargos. Regarding other things I want a separate notice.

SHRI P.S. GADHAVI : Sir, my question is: What are the guidelines for spending of surplus funds with major port and particularly with Kandia major port?

[Translation]

Central Ground Water Board

344. SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether ground water level in certain States is going down rapidly;

(b) if so, the States which are affected;

(c) whether Union Government have received any scheme in this regard from certain States;

(d) if so, the names of the States and the salient features of the scheme;

(e) whether the Government have examined the schemes; if so, the reaction of the Government thereon;

(f) the efforts made by the Central Ground Water Board to check the declining underground water level in the country; and

(g) the year-wise and State-wise amount allocated by the Union Government to the Central Ground Water Board during the last five years?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) to (g). A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) and (b). Gradual decline in ground water levels has been observed in certain pockets in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Punjab and National Capital Territory of Delhi.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) to (e). Names of the States from which schemes have been received, salient features of the schemes and the reaction of the Union Government thereto are given in the Annexure.

(f) In order to check the declining ground water levels in the country, the Union Government has circulated a "Model Bill" to the States and Union Territories to enable them to enact suitable legislation for control and regulation of the development of ground water. The Central Ground Water Board has also formulated a Centrally Sponsored Scheme costing Rs.81 crore to assist the States in recharging ground water which has been sent to Planning Commission for approval. Guidelines have been issued to State Governments/Union Territories for formulation of area-specific recharge schemes to check the declining trend in ground water levels. A Central sector scheme for recharge of ground water is being implemented by the Central Ground Water Board in the States of Maharashtra, Karnataka, National Capital Territory of Delhi and Union Territory of Chandigarh.

(g) No statewide amount is allotted to Central Ground Water Board. Amounts budgeted for ground water recharge scheme during the last 3 years was as follows :

Year	Amount Budgeted
1994-95	1.00 crores
1995-96	1.00 crores
1996-97	0.99 crores

ANNEXURE

S. Name of State No.		Details of Reference/ Scheme	Reaction of Government thereon
1	2	3	4
1. Andhra Pradesh	(i)	The State Government has sent a proposal requesting for Central assistance for Integrated Project for Ground Water Conservation, Augmentation and Watershed Management in Bhimdeveroalli and Husnabad areas of Karim Nagar District of Andhra Pradesh at an estimated cost of Rs.2828.68 lakhs.	The Government of Andhra Pradesh were intimated that the Ministry of Water Resources was not having any programme under which the integrated project for ground water conservation, augmentation and watershed management in Karim Nagar District could be funded by the Government of India & that the State Govt. will have to make its own arrangements for funding the scheme
	(ii)	In response to the initiative taken by the Central Ground Water Board to collect information for preparation of detailed Scheme for Augmenting of Ground Water Recharge in different Agro-Climatic Zones of the country, the Government of Andhra Pradesh had sent a proposal for taking operational recharge projects in 60 selected Mandals of the States at an estimated cost Rs.300 crores.	Some components of the project can be considered for inclusion in the proposed centrally sponsored Scheme for Assisting the States for Recharge of Ground Water.
2. Gujarat		The State Government has sent a project proposal for external/World Bank Assistance for augmenting surface water recharge in over-exploited aquifers of North Gujarat at an estimated cost of Rs.110.65 crores	The State Government has been informed that the response of the Government of Gujarat on the suggestions given by the Planning Commission for obtaining the investment clearance has not been received in the Ministry of Water Resources. The State Government has been requested to send their decision on the suggestions given by the Planning Commission alongwith revised project proposal.
3. Maharashtra		The State Government had submitted a proposal for financial assistance for the project for Integrated Ground Water Recharge and Water Conservation in Maharashtra at a total cost of Rs.24,558.86 lakhs.	The State Government has been informed that the Government of India have prepared a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for assisting the States in Ground Water Recharge on pilot basis and the proposal of the State Government for some Water sheds of Maharashtra would be incorporated in this scheme.
4. Madhya Pradesh		The State Government had submitted a proposal for providing financial assistance for the State Government for the project prepared by them for Ground Water recharge in 6 districts at an estimated cost of Rs. 3257.39 lakhs.	The State Government have been informed that the Government of India have prepared a Centrally Sponsored Scheme for assisting the States in Ground Water Recharge on pilot basis and financial assistance for some of the projects of the State Government can be considered after the Central Scheme is approved.
5. Uttar Pradesh		The State Government had submitted a proposal for financial assistance for investigative pilot studies on Artificial	The State Government have been informed that the Ministry of Water Resources is presently not having any programme under which the proposed studies could be funded

1	2	3	4
		Recharge of Ground Water in 5 Districts of Uttar Pradesh at an estimated cost of Rs.50 lakhs.	and therefore the State Government will have to make its own arrangements for financing the schemes. It has been further informed that the Central Ground Water Board will continue to provide technical guidance to the State Government for implementation of these schemes.
6. Tamil Nadu		In response to the initiative taken by the Central Ground Water Board to collect information for preparation of detailed Scheme for augmenting of Ground Water Recharge in different Agro-Climatic zones of the country, the Government of Tamil Nadu had sent a proposal for financial assistance for artificial recharge scheme for Tirovadanai aquifer and Viagai River bed in Ramanathapuram District at an estimated cost of Rs.120 lakhs.	Some Components of the proposal can be considered for inclusion in the proposed Centrally Sponsored Scheme to assist the States for ground water recharge.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH : Hon. Speaker, Sir. The hon. Minister has stated in his reply that the Planning Commission has been recommended to allocate Rs.81 crores to six states to raise the declining level of water. Due to declining underground water level, several states are facing acute drinking water crisis. The amount which has been recommended is insufficient. I would like to know from the hon Minister whether he would recommend to enhance this amount and by what time he would get it sanctioned?

SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA : Hon. Speaker, Sir. the Government is aware of the declining level of underground water. Earlier, only an amount of nearly Rs. 3 crores had been earmarked for this purpose. Now it has been enhanced to Rs.81 crore for the next plan. If this amount is approved by the Planning Commission and later on if it is found insufficient then the Government will think to increase it further.

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH : Malwar region of Madhya Pradesh is facing acute shortage of water. There was saying in regard to that region that "Malar Bhoomi Gahan Gambhir, Pag pag roti, dug dug neer" i.e, the land of Malwa is fertile and water is available everywhere. Today a canister of water is selling for Rs.20 in this summer. Shri Jagan Nath Mishra had not approved this scheme of Madhya Pradesh which was sent to the Central Government. Whether Shri Janeshwar Mishra is going to approve this scheme so that the water crisis there is solved?

SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA : Hon. Speaker, Sir, Madhya Pradesh is facing water problem. If you have seen the reply, it is stated therein that the State Government has been informed. It had sent proposal

for underground water schemes for six districts. They have been informed in regard to this. It is in reply to the original question that the centre has formulated some centrally sponsored schemes and that will be considered.

[English]

SHRI UDDHAB BARMAN : The hon. Minister has mentioned that in a certain area the level of ground water is going down. But in the North-East area, particularly in Assam, there is lot of ground water existing in the State. It is reported particularly in the CWPC report that if the ground water is not utilised up to a particular level, in the Assam Valley, it will create problems for the production and produce of the State.

I want to know from the hon. Minister whether the Central Government is taking any measures to utilise the ground water and other surface water in the State.

[Translation]

SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA : There is such proposal from the Assam Government. When we receive any proposal then we will then consider it.

[English]

SHRI SANAT MEHTA : The hon. Minister has stated that the State Government has been informed that the response of the Government of Gujarat on the suggestion given by the Planning Commission for obtaining investment clearance has not been received in the Ministry of Water Resources.

May I know from the hon. Minister on what date this clarification from the Government of Gujarat was asked

for and what are the reasons that they have not replied. Because this is the area where the water level has gone down to almost to 1000 to 1500 feet and North Gujarat is having more and more problems about drinking water. May I know whether this can be expedited or not?

[Translation]

SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA : Hon. Speaker, Sir, the crisis of drinking water in Gujarat is very acute and the level of underground water has gone down more than 500 ft. at many places. So far as the date is concerned I can not say correctly when the State Government had sent proposal to us. I can intimate the hon. member after collecting information.

[English]

SHRI SANAT MEHTA : How can it be? Kindly ask the Minister to give me the date later on.

[Translation]

PROF. RASA SINGH RAWAT : Hon. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government through you towards Rajasthan. This time Lord Indra was very kind on us otherwise due to continuous famine and drought conditions, the level of underground water had gone down considerably. An office for detection of underground water was established in Jodhpur near the desert area by the Government where machines and motors, requisitioned from Soviet Russia were installed but that office has been closed recently and all the motors and machines were removed from there and sent to Faridabad. When Rajasthan is facing an acute problem of drinking water and the level of water is going down continuously under these circumstances, it becomes imperative to conduct investigation and find out the reasons for going down of underground water level and also on to how this level can be brought up. There is need to conduct exploration and research. Besides, I would like to know through you the reasons for shifting the office above mentioned to and also, why drilling machine vehicles were removed from there.

SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA : Hon. Speaker, Sir, many hon Members from Rajasthan met me in this connection and have requested to redeploy the drilling machines and reestablish the office which was shifted from there. It is under consideration of the Government and the drilling machines will again be shifted there very soon.

[English]

SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Sir, the hon. Minister has replied regarding certain States which have not responded to his query. I would like to know about the States like Orissa which are awfully below the all-India

average as far as assured irrigation is concerned, and where there is an acute water shortage.

I would also like to know whether the Central Government *suo motu* will take the initiative to tap the ground water.

[Translation]

SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA : No proposal has either been received from Orissa. When the same will be considered to release at least Rs.245 crores. I would like to know how much amount out of it has been recommended by the Central Government the releasing of fund is secondary but how much amount has been recommended by the Government and the reasons of this injustice meted out to the Maharashtra Government. The hon. Minister may please reply to it because the condition is very bad there.

SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA : Hon Speaker, Sir, generally this work pertains to the state Government. The Maharashtra Government has sent us a proposal. As the hon Member has asked its date. I have information regarding its date. Its reply was sent from here on 3.10.1994 in which it was said that if the Maharashtra Government draws up any scheme of recharging water through some watershed scheme then the Government is ready to keep but the main work will have to be carried out by the Maharashtra Government itself.

[English]

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Sir, it is stated here that the level of ground water is going down and among them West Bengal is one of the States. This is also true that West Bengal, as compared to its area, contributes a lot to the production of crops. It is given that the Central sector scheme for recharge of ground water is being implemented by the Central Ground Water Board in the States of Maharashtra, Karnataka, the National Capital Territory of Delhi and the Union Territory of Chandigarh. May I know whether the hon Minister will kindly consider the case of West Bengal also under this scheme?

[Translation]

SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, generally the work of the Central Ground Water Commissions is to obtain information and conduct survey in regard to the ground water and for its exploration through wells is carried out. In reply to the main question we have given information of some states. But we have not received any proposal from the West Bengal Government in this respect so as to warrant to take some action from our side.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : What will you do if a proposal comes from the State Government?

SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA : We will look into it when the proposal comes from the State Government.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Hon Speaker, Sir, the National Capital Territory of Delhi is one of the States which have made complaints regarding declining level of ground water. As you know, Delhi is not only a city or a Union territory; it is the capital of the country which on the one hand is visited by foreign guests and on the other lakhs of people from different states every year. This is resulting in more consumption of water. Consequently the level of water is going down and the crisis of drinking water is deepening particularly in South Delhi from where I come, there are some areas where there is not a drop of drinking water available.

I would, therefore, like to know from the Minister whether he will formulate a scheme to increase the water level of Delhi on priority basis and allocate some funds for it?

SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA : Mr Speaker, Sir, there are two schemes for the Capital Delhi. Work on one scheme is going on in J.N.U. campus and on the another in I.I.T. campus. There is a scheme to contain water by constructing tank bund. There is no denying that the water level in Delhi is going down considerably. The consumption of water in Delhi has increased. The underground water in some areas beyond Mehrauli in South Delhi is being used for irrigation of agricultural land and for some other purposes. This is resulting in the declination of water level. This is under the consideration of the Government. Work on two schemes is going on to make enough water available to Delhi and another is proposed. The Government will try to take up more schemes, if necessary.

[English]

COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister through you about the position in Rajasthan. I come from Barmer constituency. A lot of money has been sanctioned from the Central Government for water supply. But then all the sources are drying up and most of the water is taken by tube wells. In the last three or four years the level of water has gone down with the result that a number of pipelines and tanks have been constructed; but there is no water available there. This year also, in Jaisalmer and Barmer areas, in almost 75 per cent of the areas it has dried up and there is famine. I have been touring that area in the last ten days. There has been floods in some parts of Rajasthan. But there is an acute shortage of water there.

I request the hon. Minister that he should depute his team of officials with some other equipment in the Divisions to dig more wells so that water is available. Only laying of pipelines and constructing other infrastructure will not suffice. In this connection I may inform that the Water from the Rajasthan Canal - the Indira Gandhi Canal - is brought to Jaisalmer and Barmer. I request that one or two Divisions should be

raised so that additional deep tube wells are dug so that there is no shortage of water.

[Translation]

SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member has just given suggestion and has not put a question. It is true that whenever water is explored, the water level goes down due to this. Water is mineral and its potential generally depends on the rains water and the quality of land. Rajasthan is facing such problem, and that is also in the knowledge of the Government, and the Government will send a team separately to examine it and a model bill will be presented for Rajasthan.

PROF. RITA VERMA : Thank you, hon. Speaker, Sir. I would like to know from the hon Minister that Vananchal is an area of South Bihar from where entire supply of coal is made. The hon. Minister had been himself a Minister of Coal and he has enough experience. Due to the coal mining the water level is continuously going down. I am very much surprised that there is no mention of Bihar in his reply.

I would like to know whether this sluggishness is on the part of the Central Government? Has not the State Government sent any proposal in this regard? I am not finding the name of Bihar in the reply whereas you are morally more responsible towards Bihar. Besides, Bihar supplies coal to the whole country for its industrial progress. This is resulting in the level of ground water going down. I would like to know whether the Central Government and the State Government have any knowledge about it? Have you got any concrete proposal on this point from the State Government? If so, what is your reaction on it?

SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir the water beneath the coal mines is rendered unsuitable for drinking purpose. It is, therefore not proper to think to bring out the water from beneath the land. This is the job of State Government to make arrangement for drinking water for the people of that area.

PROF. RITA VERMA : Has not the State Government sent you any proposal?

SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA : When they cannot draw out the ground water, then why will they send the proposal? For the drinking water, a separate
...(Interruptions)

PROF. RITA VERMA : Hon. Minister, efforts can be made to preserve it. What are you replying?
...(Interruptions)

[English]

Outlay for National Highways

*345. SHRI A.C. JOS : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the total plan outlay approved for various States