

(c) whether the agriculture land is getting salined due to lack of proper drainage system in the country;

(d) if so, the total agriculture land being affected by water-logging and salinity in the country; and

(e) the details of the future plan of the Government to protect such land from this problem ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) As per Land use Statistics (LUS) brought out by Ministry of Agriculture for the year 1994-95 (latest), Net Irrigated Area (NIA) out of Net Sown Area (NSA) in the country constitutes about 37%. State-wise details of the same are given in the enclosed Statement.

(c) One of the reasons of salinisation of agricultural land is lack of proper drainage system.

(d) As per the estimate made by National Commission on Agriculture (1976), an area of 8.53 million hectares is suffering from waterlogging and 7.62 million hectare from salinity. These areas cover both irrigated and unirrigated areas. Subsequently, a Working Group set up by the Ministry of Water Resources, in its Report (1991) on "Problem Identification in Irrigated areas" has assessed areas under Irrigation Commands affected by waterlogging and soil salinity as 2.46 million hectares and 3.06 million hectares respectively.

(e) The Government has taken various policy and programme initiatives to control the problems of waterlogging and soil salinity of the agricultural land in the country. These include emphasis on improved water management practices, promoting conjunctive use of surface and ground water, as well as drip and sprinkler system, construction/improvement of drainage system and reclamation of waterlogged and saline lands.

Statement

Sl. No.	States	Net Sown Area (NSA)	Net Irrg. Area (NIA)	% of NIA to NSA
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	10365	3959	38.20
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	150	36	24.00
3.	Assam	2777	572	20.60
4.	Bihar	7380	3535	47.90
5.	Goa	138	23	16.67
6.	Gujarat	9609	3002	31.24
7.	Haryana	3559	2719	76.40

1	2	3	4	5
8.	Himachal Pradesh	572	100	17.48
9.	Jammu & Kashmir	733	305	41.61
10.	Karnataka	10419	2325	22.32
11.	Kerala	2239	358	15.99
12.	Madhya Pradesh	19662	5822	29.61
13.	Maharashtra	17897	2567	14.34
14.	Manipur	226	65	28.76
15.	Meghalaya	201	45	22.39
16.	Mizoram	65	8	12.31
17.	Nagaland	206	62	30.10
18.	Orissa	6303	2090	33.16
19.	Punjab	4210	3944	93.68
20.	Rajasthan	17021	4858	28.54
21.	Sikkim	95	16	16.84
22.	Tamil Nadu	5790	2902	50.12
23.	Tripura	277	35	12.64
24.	Uttar Pradesh	17315	11670	67.40
25.	West Bengal	5464	1911	34.97
Total States		142673	52929	37.10
Total UTs		146	70	47.95
Grand Total		142819	52999	37.11

Note : Figures are as per land Use Statistics brought out by Ministry of Agriculture for 1994-95 (latest) and are Provisional.

Regional Passport Offices

[English]

* 120. SHRI MADHAV RAO PATIL :
SHRI SURENDRA PRASAD YADAV
(JHANJIHARPUR) :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the criteria for opening of new Regional Passport Offices in the country;

(b) whether several State Governments have requested the Union Government to open more Passport Offices in their states;

(c) if so, the places identified so far by the Union Government ;

(d) whether there is great delay in issue of passport; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by Government for speedy disposal ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) to (e) The opening of new passport offices is governed by certain criteria such as the location of existing passport offices, volume of applications from a particular region and recommendations of the Standing Committee of Parliament for External Affairs that there must be at least 50,000 applications per annum from an area for a new passport office to be opened.

At present, 27 passport offices and 10 passport collection centres are functional all over the country. A passport office at Pune is to be opened shortly. Government has not received any request from any State Government for opening additional passport offices. In fact, Government took the initiative to write to all North-Eastern States with the request to help open Collection Centres in these States.

Government is constantly endeavouring to improve and streamline the existing passport issuing system to ensure that no delays take place. A number of measures have been taken recently to facilitate early issue of passports which, *inter alia*, are computerisation of procedures for receipt and processing of applications despatch of passports by Speed Post in select cities, automatic reissue in the case of expired passports without prior police verification, increasing the validity period of passports to 20 years, opening new Passport Offices and Collection Centres and augmentation of staff strength in the various passport offices.

Ravi Beas Water Dispute

* 121. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether an agreement was signed by the Chief Ministers of Rajasthan, Punjab and Haryana on December 31st, 1981 for distribution of surplus Ravi Beas Waters;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this matter has been referred by the Union Government to the Eradi Tribunal for clarification;

(d) if so, whether the meetings of this Tribunal have not taken place for so many years which caused great suffering to the State of Rajasthan;

(e) whether the Union Government are contemplating to implement the decision taken in the inter State meeting held on 29-30 July, and 6 August, 1992; and

(f) if so, the time by which it is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

An agreement was signed on December 31, 1981 between the Hon'ble Chief Ministers of Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan in the presence of Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, allocating the surplus waters of Ravi-Beas system amounting to 21.19 Billion Cubic Meter (BCM) among the three states of Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan at 5.21 BCM, 4.32 BCM, 10.61 BCM respectively and on fixed share basis to the State of J&K and Delhi Water Supply at 0.80 BCM and 0.25 BCM respectively, with a provision for variation in case of change. It was also agreed that since Rajasthan was not in a position to utilise its full share, Punjab shall be free to utilise the water surplus to Rajasthan requirement. It was also agreed that the Sutlej Yamuna Link Canal project shall be implemented in a time bound manner so far as the canal and its apurtenant works in Punjab territory are concerned, within a period of 2 years from the date of this agreement so that Haryana is enabled to draw its allocated share of water.

(c) and (d) Ravi and Beas Waters Tribunal headed by Hon'ble Justice Eradi was set up by Central Government on 2.4.1986 and referred the following two matters for verification and adjudication by the Tribunal :

- (1) The farmers of Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan will continue to get water not less than what they were using from the Ravi-Beas system as on 1.7.1985. Water used for consumptive purposes will also remain unaffected. Quantum of usage claimed shall be verified by the Tribunal.
- (2) The claim of Punjab and Haryana regarding the shares in their remaining waters will be adjudicated by the Tribunal.

The Tribunal gave its interim report in January, 1987. The Tribunal restarted its hearing on further references for clarifications in September, 1987 and continued its hearings upto October, 1988. The Tribunal remained dormant from October, 1988 to June, 1997 for various reasons including prevailing situation in Punjab and resignation of one of the members of the Tribunal on 9.3.1989. Further hearings of the Tribunal have again started with effect from 5.7.97. However, Bhakra Beas Management Board is regulating releases of surplus Ravi Beas Waters to Rajasthan and concerned States on *ad-hoc* basis keeping in view the Inter-State Agreement of 1981.

(e) & (f) Certain Inter-State issues among the States of Punjab, Haryana and Rajasthan were discussed among the Chief Ministers of three respective States in the meeting held on 29-30 July, 1992 and 6th August, 1992. The decision taken in these meetings were to be further discussed by the Chief Ministers of the three States. Further meetings however could not take place, as such the issues remained unresolved.