

**Non-Lapsable Development Fund**

1175. SHRI TH. CHAOBA SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of 10% Non-lapsable Development Fund earmarked for the North-Eastern States till date since the inception of this fund;

(b) the details break-up of the contribution of the Non-lapsable Fund by each Ministry/Department of the Government of India towards the fund; and

(c) the number of Ministries/Departments of the Government of India who have not yet contributed to this fund, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) to (c) A Non-lapsable Central Pool of Resources has been constituted for assisting development projects, including the infrastructure sector, in the North-East and Sikkim. The funds being credited by various Central Ministries/Departments to the Pool from out of unspent amount(s) from 10% of their Budget(s) earmarked for these States, are expected to enable meeting the initial requirements for this purpose during the current financial year.

2. The actual amount(s) that would be contributed by the Central Ministries/Departments to the Central Pool during the current financial year would be known after the end of the financial year. All Central Ministries/Departments, except those specifically exempted and those who would spend 10% or more of their Budget(s) in the North-East and Sikkim, are required to contribute to the Central Pool.

[Translation]

**National Water Policy**

1176. DR. PRABHA THAKUR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating to amend the National Water Policy for proper sharing of irrigation and drinking water among the States and to bring the subjects related to state rivers under the purview of Centre so, as to resolve inter-State water disputes permanently;

(b) if so, the details of the outlines of the policy; and

(c) the time by which the policy is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) A National Water Policy was adopted by National Water Resources Council, under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister, in 1987. The Policy is proposed to be reviewed and updated in the context of experiences gained during the last ten years of its implementation and emerging challenges. In this context, a revised/updated draft National Water Policy has recently been finalised by the National Water Board (NWB) in its tenth meeting held on 29th October, 1998 for its further consideration and adoption by the National Water Resources Council. In addition, a draft National Policy Guidelines for Water Allocation amongst States has also been finalised by the National Water Board for consideration of the National Water Resources Council. However, there is no proposal under consideration for bringing the subject of 'Water' under the purview of the Centre.

(c) The adoption of revised/updated National Water Policy as well as the draft National Policy Guidelines for Water Allocation amongst States is dependent upon its approval by the National Water Resources Council.

[English]

**Cultivation of Wheat**

1177. SHRI PRASAD BABURAO TANPURE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production and area under wheat cultivation has increased this year as compared to last year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Dropsy scare and edible oil import liberalisation are responsible for the increase in area under wheat cultivation;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether there is any likely affect on production of oil seeds due to this reason; and