

(a) whether the Government propose to include Bhojpuri and Bhoti languages in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and the time by which these are likely to be included?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS: (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) to (c). The matter is under consideration of the Government.

[English]

Ganga-Cauvery Project

3336. SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering to include Ganga-Cauvery Project in the Eighth Five Year Plan with a view to control floods and droughts; and

(b) 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) and (b). There is no proposal to link Ganga with Cauvery in the VIII Five Year Plan. The proposal to link Ganga with Cauvery, as visualised by Dr. K.L. Rao was not persuaded by Government because of its prohibitive cost, requirement of large block of power and being devoid of flood control benefits. However, a National Perspective for Water Resources Development prepared by Government envisages inter-linkages between various

Peninsular rivers and Himalayan rivers separately for transfer of water from water rich basins to water short basins for optimum utilisation of Water Resources. Government has established National Water Development Agency (NWDA) in 1982 to firm up these proposals. A total of 36 water transfer links, 17 under Peninsular component and 19 under Himalayan component have been identified by National Water Development Agency. While office studies of 13 links under Peninsular component have been completed, studies of balance links have been included in the VIII Plan. Also survey and investigations of 9 links of Peninsular component and 3 links of Himalayan component have been included in the VIII Plan programme of the Agency.

GAIL Projects

3337. DR. K.V.R. CHOUDARY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Public Investment Board has approved two major expansion projects of the Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL)—upgradation of the HBJ pipeline capacity and setting up of an LPG plant at Usar in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the investment of the projects thereof; and

(c) the details of GAIL's planned activities for the next three years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA): (a) and (b). The Government have approved the upgradation of the HBJ pipeline capacity and the setting up of an LPG plant in Usar at the estimated project costs of Rs. 2376 crores and Rs. 319.59 crores respectively.