

**STATEMENT**

In the meeting taken with members of Parliament from Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha from West Bengal on 8th August 1991 at New Delhi, the Members had laid emphasis on Teesta Barrage Project to be declared as National Project and fully funded by the Centre in the VIIU Plan for its early completion the other allied issues as brought forward were approval to Upper Venkateshwar Project, early clearance of Vidyadhar Flood Control Scheme early clearance of Subarnarekha Project, Kangsabati Modernisation Project, left bank canal of Teesta Barrage through forest area, expeditious completion of on-going projects, dredging of Ganga in its lower reaches, anti-erosion works to be taken up as National Project to be funded by the centre. A suggestion was made that Centre should send an Expert team for assessment of on-going devastation due to erosion in Sagar and Ghoramare islands of Sunderban area of 24 paraganas (South) and further, this to be taken up as a National project for saving these islands from further erosion. It was also suggested to constitute a National Apex Body on Water management policy for surface and sub-surface utilisation of resources like national Flood Commission.

While Teesta Barrage Project has been recommended to the Planning Commission for consideration as National Project and its funding by the Centre, the concept and criteria for national projects have to be concurred by the Planning Commission. For expeditious completion of the irrigation projects, State Government has also to make sizeable increase in the irrigation sector. The Central Water Commission has taken up special drive to get the observations/clarifications fulfilled through meetings with State officials for completing project appraisal formalities. For obtaining clearance/approval of irrigation projects, the State Government is required to comply with the observations of Central Water Commission, Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and the concerned Ministries at the Centre.

The Central team visited Ghoramare

islands from 29th to 30th October, 1991, in pursuance of the suggestion made.

**Nationalised Banks at Bangalore**

1296. SHRI G. MADE GOWDA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to issue passport applications through post offices and nationalised banks at Bangalore; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which such facility is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) and (b). The possibility of sale of passport application forms through Post Offices and Banks is being explored.

**Flood Control Projects in Kerala**

1297. SHRI T.J. ANJALOSE: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the details including the estimated cost of the flood control projects in Kerala pending with the Union Government;

(b) the time by which those are likely to be cleared; and

(c) the details of Central assistance provided to Kerala for control of floods in the State during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) There is no flood control project of Government of Kerala pending techno-economic appraisal with Central Water Commission.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) While no Central assistance was provided for control of floods in Kerala during