

Development of Inland Waterways in Kerala

28. SHRI RAMESH CHENNITHALA: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount spent on the development of Inland Waterways in Kerala under Centrally Sponsored Schemes; and

(b) the progress made so far under the

schemes?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES AND MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA): (a) and (b). The Central Government meets 50 per cent of the sanctioned cost of Centrally Sponsored IWT Schemes as loan assistance. The expenditure incurred by the Central Government during 7th Five-Year Plan in respect of Centrally Sponsored IWT Schemes in Kerala are as follows:—

(i) Improvement of Neendakara Cheriyazheekal Waterway	—	Rs. 22.305 lakhs
(ii) Improvement of Udyogmandal Canal	—	Rs. 63.00 lakhs
(iii) Improvement of Champakara Canal	—	Rs. 73.55 lakhs
Total	—	Rs. 158.855 lakhs

The scheme for improvement of Neendakara—Cheriyazheekal Waterway has been completed. 82 per cent of earth work including dredging and 63 per cent of bank protection works in respect of Udyogmandal Canal have been completed. The improvement works in respect of Champakara Canal have been almost completed.

[*Translation*]

Destruction of Paddy Crops by Pests in Bihar

29. SHRI RAMESHWAR PRASAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether pests have destroyed the ripe paddy crops in Bihar; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken to check it?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI DEVI LAL): (a) and (b). The incidence of Brown Plant Hopper locally known as 'Madhua' occurred in Paddy crops in some areas of the District of Rohtas and Bhojpur in Bihar during October, 1990. Due to prompt and timely control measures adopted by the State Government and the farmers this Pest was effectively checked and the Paddy crop was saved from any significant losses.

Telephone Connections Under Social Workers Category

30. SHRI GOVINDA CHANDRA MUNDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Mahanagar Telephone Nigam limited is not sanctioning new telephone connections under Social Worker Category by putting restriction on such connections;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Government propose to lift such restriction; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI JAI PRAKASH): (a) and (b). As per Telephone Allotment Rules, there is no Social Workers Category for allotment of new telephone connections. However, eminent persons who have earned recognition at the State or national level in any particular field of science or public activities including sports, fine arts, literature, family planning, adult literacy and uplift of the downtrodden are registered under on-OYT-Special category.

(c) and (d). Do not arise.

[English]

Agreement with UK on Terrorism

31. SHRI YASHWANTRAOPATIL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an agreement to tackle the terrorism is under finalisation with the government of U.K.;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the progress made in this regard so far?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) to (c). There is an ongoing dialogue with UK on various ways to tackle terrorism. No agreement has been finalised so far.

Norms for Construction of Road Under Inter-State or Economic Importance Programme

32. SHRI J. CHOKKA RAO: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the norms fixed for taking up construction of roads under Central Loan Assistance Programme of State roads of Inter-State or Economic Importance; and

(b) the amount released by Union Government and spent by each State, scheme-wise under this programme during Seventh Five Year Plan period?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES AND MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA): (a) The norms adopted for consideration of projects under the Central loan assistance for State roads of Inter-State or Economic Importance are as under:—

(i) Inter-State roads necessary for ensuring through communications;

(ii) Projects required for opening up new areas to which railway facilities cannot be provided in the near future;

(iii) Projects which can contribute materially to rapid economic development.

(b) Under this scheme, expenditure is initially incurred by the State Government from their own resources and are released on lump sum basis keeping in view the entitlement of the State and total funds available for the purpose. A statement indicating the funds released to States/Union Territories during 7th Plan is enclosed.