

Floods in Kerala

*537. { Shri Kottukapally:
Shri Maniyangadan:

Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that extensive damage has been caused and many lives lost as a result of floods and landslides, in the Kottayam and Ernakulam districts of Kerala, especially in the Taluqs of Thodupuzha, Kanjirapally and Peermade;

(b) if so, what are the details of the same;

(c) has any report been received from the State Government regarding these natural calamities;

(d) has any help been sought from the Centre; and

(e) if so, what is the nature of the same?

The Minister in the Ministry of Home Affairs (Shri Datar): (a) and (b). As a result of heavy rains the Pampa, Manimala and Achancoil rivers of Kerala were under spate. Certain parts of the districts of Ernakulam, Kottayam and Alleppey were flooded, with consequent dislocation of traffic of nearby areas. 36 casualties were reported on the 13th and about five hundred houses suffered destruction.

(c) No.

(d) No.

(e) Does not arise.

Oil Drilling in Jaisalmer

*538. { Shri Chandak:
Shri Karni Singhji:

Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prospecting for oil in Jaisalmer is still continuing;

(b) if the prospecting has been stopped, what was the reason for its stoppage;

(c) the total expenditure incurred by Government on this project so far; and

(d) how much foreign exchange has been spent on this project?

The Minister of Mines and Oil (Shri K. D. Malaviya): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d). Total expenditure on the work being done in this area so far is Rs. 7.75 lakhs. As foreign exchange expenditure figures are not maintained area-wise, that break-up for this area is not readily available but is being worked out.

Propaganda on Kashmir Affairs

Shri V. C. Shukla:
*539. { Shri S. M. Banerjee:
Shri Bibhuti Mishra:
Shri Damar:

Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the false and mischievous propaganda being carried on by Miss Mridula Sarabhai through her periodic bulletins etc., on Kashmir; and

(b) if so, what measures Government propose to take to curb such unhealthy propaganda?

The Minister of Home Affairs (Pandit G. B. Pant): (a) and (b). The activities of Miss Mridula Sarabhai have come to Government's notice and she has been detained under the Preventive Detention Act.

Schools managed by Faridabad Development Board

*540. Shri Subodh Hansda: Will the Minister of Education be pleased to state:

(a) whether the High Schools for boys and girls managed by the Faridabad Development Board have been