

nical matters which we will have to understand. So far as the silting is concerned, the first step taken is at the time of designing of the dam, proper care is taken so that that part is taken care of. Secondly, after the dam is constructed, steps are taken for dredging or whatever other methods that are required.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV :

Mr. Speaker, Sir, the water coming to Eastern States from China and Nepal flows into Kosi river. The water of Kosi river is utilised for agriculture and drinking purposes. The Central Water Commission has investigated the cause of the loss of water and Bihar Government has submitted a proposal in this regard because we are incurring losses work billions of rupees on account of this loss of water. Has Central Water Commission sent any proposal for making arrangements for undertaking irrigation in the State.

[*English*]

MR. SPEAKER : This does not come out of this question. If you have information, give it.

SHRI P.K. THUNGON : Sir, that is what I was going to say. The question is about the details of the study conducted by the Central Water Commission in regard to water distribution and storage in main reservoirs of the country. It is not a study in totality. It is a study of the reservoirs which are already in existence.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I seek your protection.

MR. SPEAKER : I am giving protection, to the Minister.

[*English*]

Mr. Minister, you have heard the Members. Let us not be very technical on the point. The real issues have been projected. If it is possible, please get them examined. They are the real issues.

SHRI A. CHARLES : Mr. Speaker, Sir, storage and distribution network all over the country is affected because the lines are not properly built. There was a proposal for modernisation. About 45 per cent of the water is getting wasted. Modernisation is the only way out for this problem. If we spend 10 per cent of the total construction cost for modernisation, 45 per cent of water will be saved. So, may I know from the hon. Minister whether this modernisation scheme for the distribution network which is pending for years together will be given priority ?

SHRI P. K. THUNGON : Sir as I have already stated, there are programmes from the State Governments and also there are Centrally assisted programmes. Under these programmes these points, which the hon. Member has stated, are taken care of .

[*English*]

### Linguistic Minorities

\*662. SHRI N. DENNIS : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) the safeguards and protection given by the Government to the linguistic minorities in the country;

(b) the steps taken by the Government to enable them to pursue their studies in their mother tongue; and

(c) the provisions made to provide them job opportunities in the public sector?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE. (SHRI K.V. THANGKA BALU): (a) to (c) : Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

### STATEMENT

(a) The safeguards for Linguistic Minorities in the country derive their authority from 2 sources:

- (1) The provisions contained in Articles 29, 30, 347, 350, 350a, 350B of the Constitution. These provisions, in a nut-shell, are as under:-
  - (i) Article 29 gives the linguistic minorities the right to conserve their language, script and culture;
  - (ii) Article 30 gives them the right to establish and administer educational institutions of their choice;
  - (iii) Article 347 provides for a presidential direction for official recognition of a language ;
  - (iv) Article 350 confers the right to use any language in representation for redress of grievances;
  - (v) Article 350A provides for

facilities for instruction through mother tongue at the primary stage of education; and

- (vi) Article 350B provides for the institution of the Special Officer for Linguistic Minorities, formally designated as the Commissioner for Linguistic Minorities in India.
- (2) The Scheme of safeguards agreed to at the all India level from time to time contained in the decisions at various Conferences, etc. such as Provincial Conference in 1949, Government of India Memorandum of 1958 statement of Language, 1958, Southern Zonal Council Decisions, 1959, Chief Ministers' Conference, 1961, Meeting of the Committee of Vice Chairmen of zonal Councils, 1961.

Part (b) Article 350-A of the Constitution lays down that 'it shall be the endeavour of every state and of every local authority within the state to provide adequate facility for instruction in the mother tongue at primary stage of education to children belonging to linguistic minority groups'. Accordingly, it has been the policy of the Government to provide such facilities for students belonging to linguistic minorities where at least 40 students in a school or 10 in a class so desire.

Part (c) There is no specific provision in the Constitution which would provide for job opportunities for the linguistic minorities in the Public Sector. How-

ever, such candidates from the linguistic minorities enjoy all fundamental rights available to the citizens of India in regard to employment under the State.

The statement issued by the Chief Ministers Conference of State Governments held in 1961, inter alia, had laid down that in recruitment to State services under the State Government, language should not be a bar. The resolution lays down that besides the official language of the State option should be given of using English or Hindi as the medium of examination and that a test of proficiency in the State's official language should be held after selection and would not be a pre-requisite for recruitment of State services.

[English]

SHRI N. DENNIS : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the border areas of linguistic States are bilingual and linguistic minorities live in large numbers there. The hon. Minister has stated that there are constitutional safeguards and protection to the linguistic minorities and he has also stated about the decisions arrived at by the All India Body. But often these constitutional provisions and the decisions arrived at, are flouted. May I know from the hon. Minister the steps taken by the Government for the linguistic minorities to pursue their studies in their mother tongue by opening adequate number of schools and classes in such areas and also by the appointment of teachers.

SHRI K.V. THANGKA BALU : Sir, there are representations from the linguistic minorities conveying their complaints and grievances. These are forwarded by the Commissioner of Linguistic Minorities to the concerned State Governments and

Union Territories. This is in accordance with the article 350 (B) (1) (2) of the Constitution. The Commissioner, through his reports submitted to the President, informs on the grievances of the linguistic minorities and the steps taken is already an inbuilt mechanism existing in the Constitution and in the person of the Commissioner of Linguistic Minorities who is the constitutional authority to protect the interests of the linguist minorities. He is taking time and again and reporting the matter to the State and requesting the States to implement the policy.

In regard to answer to part (b) of the question, the policy laid down by the Government with reference to the linguistic minorities has stipulated that there should be provisions for opening schools up to the primary level to pursue their studies in respect of the mother tongue. The States are expected to follow this policy and provide adequate schools, classes and teachers too. The States are known to have provided these facilities also.

However, if the hon. Member has any specific instance where such facilities are not provided or extended, we will certainly look into it and see that remedies are taken.

SHRI N. DENNIS : In job opportunities, discrimination is often made for the linguistic minorities. May I know from the hon. Minister whether representatives of the linguistic minorities would be accommodated in the recruitment bodies and also whether the pre-condition of the knowledge of the State language would be waived and relaxed in the case of appointment.

The grievances of the linguistic minorities regarding this matter could be monitored by a monitoring cell and whenever there are grievances from the linguistic minorities, a direction should be sent.

SHRI K.V. THANGKA BALU : Regarding appointment, there is no proposal, at present, from the Government side. With regard to waiver of language, the Commissioner, Linguistic Minorities has been pursuing with the State Government that for recruitment in the State services, prior knowledge of State official language should not be a pre-requisite. That is what he has asked. In this connection, I would mention that certain States and Union Territories like Dadra Nagar Haveli, Delhi, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Orissa, Punjab, Sikkim, Uttar Pradesh have already implemented this scheme.

In regard to other States, the linguistic minority Commissioner is pursuing the matter with them.

With regard to monitoring, the Linguistic Minority Commissioner is the Constitutional authority who is regularly monitoring these proposal with the State Government and getting reports time and again also.

DR. MUMTAZ ANSARI : It has been reported in the recent State Minority Conference that there are minority institutions which are facing a lot of problems in respect of admissions, in respect of other related policy matters and in respect of maintaining minority character guaranteed under article 29 and 30 of the Constitution.

MR. SPEAKER : All these things

are not necessary. You put a specific question.

DR. MUMTAZ ANSARI : I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether there is any proposal to amend these articles 29 and 30 of the Constitution in order to give much more absolute power to all these minority running institutions.

SHRI. K.V. THANGKA BALU : The question is very specific on linguistic minorities.

MR. SPEAKER : Are you going to amend the Constitution to provide the facility?

SHRI K.V. THANGKA BALU : At present, we have no such idea.

[*Translation*]

DR. G.L. KANANUJIA : The hon. Minister has said in his reply:

[*English*]

There is no specific provision in the Constitution which would provide for job opportunities for the linguistic minorities.

[*Translation*]

Whether the government are aware that the Uttar Pradesh Government has said that Urdu-Knowing people will be given preference in the proposed security force.

[*English*]

I will not allow you to read the Answer. Shri Paswan.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the matter of linguistic minorities is an important matter relating to National Integration. If somebody wants to learn Tamil language in Delhi or Hindi language in Madras, then there is no provision for this. As a result, confrontation become English and Hindi language takes place everywhere. As the Government has replied that they have financial crunch and we also understand it, but I would like to know that just as the Government had convened Chief Ministers, conference in this regard in 1961, is it planning to take some steps to resolve and linguistic problem by convening Chief Ministers' Conference in the near future?

[*English*]

SHRI K.V. THANGKA BALU : Sir, in the past, we have taken a number of steps. The Chief Ministers and the Vice-Chairmen of the Zonal Councils have dealt with this matter at length and recommended to the Government the various steps to be taken in this matter. Accordingly, the Government is pursuing the matter with the state Governments and we are trying to implement this policy.

With regard to the Chief Ministers Conference, at present it is a good suggestion to be considered.

SHRI UMRAO SINGH : Sir, no steps have been taken for teaching of Punjabi language to the minorities in Delhi and in the States of Haryana, Delhi and Himachal Pradesh. I would like to know whether the Government of India is considering to implement the formula of

teaching Punjabi as the second language or as the language of the minorities in all these States so that Punjabi's can nurse their language in Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and Delhi.

SHRI K.V. THANGKA BALU : This is a matter to be dealt with by the State Governments.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, with your permission, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the problems being faced by our linguistic minorities, whose mother tongues are having the status of minorities in their respective states. I would, especially, like to draw the attention of the Government to the three language formula. Every language enjoys a minority status at some place or the other including Hindi, but Hindi is a permanent language in the three language formula. That is why, the Hindi speaking children get the opportunity to read Hindi alongwith other languages of the state, but they only face difficulties when they go out of their states. The regional languages of that area include English and Hindi. The third category includes Urdu and Sindhi speaking children and they are facing difficulties in every non-Hindi state. There is no scope for them in the three language formula. In other words, they study Hindi, English and the regional language but they do not have any opportunity to pursue their studies in their mother tongue. I feel that this is the biggest drawback of the three language formula. I have drawn the attention of the Government paying any attention to solve this problem? What steps are proposed to be taken in this regard?

[*English*]

SHRI K.V. THANGKA BALU : There are 130 linguistic languages.

SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN : I am only thinking of the national language. The languages mentioned in the Constitution are the modern Indian languages. I am not concerned with those 200 languages in the country.

SHRI K.V. THANGKA BALU : The question relates very clearly to linguistic minorities.

MR. SPEAKER : The hon. Member says that these languages which are mentioned in the Constitution are also the languages of minorities in certain cases. What can we do?

SHRI K.V. THANGKA BALU : I do agree that it is a problem. Time and again, we get this problem from various sections of the society, particularly non-Hindi speaking people or other areas. We have advised the State Governments to look into this matter and try to solve this problem.

### **Oil Exploration**

[*Translation*]

\*663. SHRIMATI. BHAVNA  
CHIKHLIA :  
SHRI RAJESH KUMAR :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are leaving aside the areas with potential reserves for oil exploration by the foreign companies;

(b) if so, the details and objectives thereof; and

(c) whether the decision is in tune with the existing policy of the Government?

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS *CAPT. SATISH KUMAR SHARMA* : (a) to (c). Government of India offers specified block for exploration of oil and gas at at specified intervals to Indian and foreign companies. These blocks are identified by Government of India in consultation with ONGC/OIL and cover areas where ONGC/OIL have no firm exploration programme in the near future.

Under the continuous round-the-year bidding scheme, the seventh round is currently in progress. The objective is to augment the exploration activities of the national oil companies and intensify exploration activities of the various sedimentary basins of India. This is an important component of the policy of the Government to attract private investment in the exploration for hydrocarbons.

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI BHAVNA CHIKHLIA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether it is a fact that owing to the scarcity of resources and out limited means, foreign companies are invited for oil exploration activities in areas having vast potentials of oil and these areas are identified and programme of oil exploration chalked out after having consultations with our Indian companies like ONGC and OIL? I would