

(c) and (d) Government continue to follow developments in Afghanistan closely and have exchanged views with concerned countries on this issue, including Russia and Iran. India has also participated in the Tehran Conference on Afghanistan called by Iran during October, 1996 and has participated in UN sponsored meetings in New York during November, 1996 and at Ashgabat during January, 1997. During these meetings we have reiterated our support for the unity, independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Afghanistan, called for peaceful negotiations among Afghan parties and emphasised the need for cessation of foreign interference for resolution of the conflict.

[Translation]

Survey of Halon Project

3361. SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULESTE : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether survey to Halon Project (Narmada Kachhar) in Mandla District in Madhya Pradesh was started in 1986;

(b) whether this project has been approved;

(c) if so, the details thereof and the time by which work on the said project is likely to be started; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) to (d) No information is kept at the Centre regarding surveys carried out by the States.

[English]

Brahmaputra Waterway

3362. DR. PRABIN CHANDRA SARMA : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether any proposal has been received from the Government of Assam to harness the river Brahmaputra as a waterway;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken/being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Transport Ministers of North Eastern States submitted a Memorandum to the Government for development of transport sector in North Eastern region, which include setting up of terminals, night navigation facilities, maintenance of fairway etc. for development of Brahmaputra as a waterway.

(c) Dhubri to Sadiya stretch of 891 kms. of river Brahmaputra was declared as NW-2 in September, 1988. For development and maintenance of the fairway,

conservancy works like bandalling, channel marking are being taken up on year to year basis. Floating terminals exists at Dhubri and Pandu. A Scheme sanctioned at a cost of Rs. 60.20 lakhs for provision of additional floating terminals at Dhubri, Jogighopa, Tezpur, Neamati and Dibrugarh is under implementation. A scheme for providing night navigational facilities between Dhubri and Pandu is also under process. A fairway with 2 mtr. LAD is being maintained from Dhubri to Dibrugarh during the current year. River Conservancy work is proposed to be extended upto Saikhowa during 1997-98.

During 9th Five Year Plan, construction of additional permanent terminals at various locations such as Dhubri, Jogighopa, Pandu, Tezpur, Neamati with mechanical loading/unloading facilities and providing night navigation facilities for the stretch from Dhubri to Dibrugarh are proposed to be taken up.

[Translation]

Recruitment of Education Officers in KVS

3363. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH :
SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Supreme Court in the case of 'Ajay Hasia' in 1981 gave a direction to the Government to keep a ratio between maximum marks prescribed for written examination and the interview under the direct recruitment procedure;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether this direction is being adhered to in the direct recruitment of Education officers in Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan; and

(d) if no, the justification of violation in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) : (a) and (b) A statement is attached.

(c) and (d) For filling posts of Education Officers by direct recruitment, selection is made on the basis of performance in written test as well as interview. Shortlisting of candidates is done on the basis of written test and the final list is prepared on the basis of the combined merit of written test and interview.

Statement

Hon'ble Supreme Court in the case of 'Ajay Hasia' etc. Vs Khalid Mujib Sehravardi and others etc. adjudicated upon whether an institution registered under the Societies Registration Act is an authority under Article 12 of the Constitution, validity of viva voce examination as permissible test for selection of