

Irrigation Projects in Orissa

1445. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether State Government of Orissa had sent a request to the Prime Minister for augmentation of funds for speedy completion of the ongoing major irrigation projects in the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the augmented funds approved, project-wise?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) However, under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) launched in 1996-97, an amount of Rs. 46.05 crores has been released as Central Loan Assistance (CLA) to Government of Orissa for Rengali, Upper Indravati Right Bank Canal, Subenarekha and Anandpur Barrage projects for their speedy completion.

National Sports and Youth Policy

1446. SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 158 on December 2, 1996 and state:

(a) whether any steps have been taken to reformulate the national sports and youth policies;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, whether the proposal to reform any of these policies has been abandoned; and

(d) if so, the reason therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI) : (a) to (d) The draft of the revised National Sports Policy has been circulated to all concerned for their comments and suggestions. As regards the National Youth Policy, a meeting with the representatives of various Youth Wings of Political Parties, and others concerned has been held. The draft of the revised Youth Policy is under preparation for circulation to all concerned for suggestions/comments.

[Translation]

Mid-Day Meal Scheme in Uttar Pradesh

1447. SHRI D.P. YADAV : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government has extended the Mid-day Meal Scheme in schools;

(b) if so, the number of such rural schools in Uttar Pradesh which were covered under the said scheme during the last year and proposed to be covered in the next year, district-wise; and

(c) the amount likely to be incurred on this programme during 1997-98?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) : (a) The National Programme of Nutritional Support to Primary Education, commonly known as Mid-day meal scheme, was launched in the country on 15 August, 1995, to cover in a phased manner all students in primary classes (I-V) in the country by 1997-98.

(b) 21528 rural schools were covered under the scheme in 37 districts of Uttar Pradesh during 1995-96 and 76896 schools in 66 districts are being covered during this year. The remainder are expected to be covered in 1997-98.

(c) The budget estimates for 1997-98 have not been finalised.

[English]

Drug for Thalassaemia Patients

1448. KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to withdraw all types of taxes and duties on importing "Kelfer" the new medical drug, an alternative to 'desferal injection' used for the thalassaemia patients; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) and (b) The matter is under active consideration of the Government.

Pending I.P. in Karnataka

1449. SHRI B.L. SHANKAR : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of pending irrigation projects on which work was started over a decade ago in Karnataka;

(b) the reasons for their non completion so far;

(c) the stage in which these projects stand at present; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Union Government to expedite the completion of these projects without further loss of time and cost overrun?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) to (c) 12 Major and 12 Medium irrigation projects in Karnataka on which work was started over a decade ago, are still under construction. These projects could not be completed due to various technical, financial and other reasons. They are at various stages of completion.

(d) The Government of India has launched the Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) during 1996-97 which includes financial assistance to State Government and intensive monitoring of projects for early completion.