

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) Yes Sir, Government are aware of reports appearing in the media about likely US military presence in Sri Lanka, including the report that appeared in the Delhi edition of "The Times of India" of July 16, 1996.

(b) and (c). Sri Lanka and the US have an ongoing programme of cooperation between the defence establishments of the two countries which includes courses in defence institutions in the US and joint exercises on lines similar to what exists between the US and other countries in our region.

The Government closely monitors all developments in the region which have a bearing on India's security interests.

Road from Chogdibal to Tangda

2890. SHRI GULAM RASOOL KAR : will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the road going from Chogdibal to Tangda on the pass of Nathadhyama is open for six months only;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to lay a tunnel on this road in the Nathadhyma Pass and whether that tunnel will be kept open throughout the year; and

(c) if so, the reasons for not taking action by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) The road Chogdibal-Tangda passes through high altitude areas and snowfall during winter is a normal feature. Due to low temperature, blizzards and intensive avalanche activity, the road remains closed to traffic for varying durations every year.

(b) and (c). There is no proposal as construction of a tunnel covering the long snowfall zone is not likely to be cost effective.

[Translation]

Approval of ILIP of Sawai Madhopur

2891. SHRIMATI USHA MEENA : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the date when Indira Lift Irrigation Project of Sawai Madhopur district was referred to the Central Water Commission for the first time for its approval;

(b) the reasons for not approving it by the Central Water Commission for such a long time;

(c) whether the Union Government propose to approve this project; and

(d) if so, the year by which the project is likely to be implemented after getting approval?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) The detailed Project Report of Indira Lift Irrigation Project (Rajasthan) has not been received in the Central Water Commission for techno-economic appraisal. However, a report on hydrological study of the Project was received in the Central Water Commission, in February, 1994, and the observations were communicated to the State Government in March, 1995.

(b) and (c). The State Government is required to comply the observations of the Central Water Commission on hydrological Studies and submit the detailed Project Report to the Central Water Commission for techno-economic appraisal.

(d) In absence of the detailed Project Report and investment clearance, it is not possible to indicate any date for completion of the Project.

[English]

Set Back on Parambikulam Aliyar Project

2892. SHRI E. AHAMED : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Parambikulam Aliyar Project has suffered a set back due to the disputes of Tamil Nadu and Kerala;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the progress made by the above project so far;

(d) the likely date by which this is going to be completed;

(e) the Central assistance actually made available to this project during each of the last three years; and

(f) the steps taken by the Union Government to ensure the proper utilisation of Central assistance and to expedite the project?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) and (b). Parambikulam-Aliyar Project (PAP) Agreement was executed between Governments of Kerala and Tamil Nadu in May, 1970 on sharing of waters of these rivers. The agreement is stipulated for establishment of a Joint Water Regulation Board comprising representatives of both the State Governments. The Board has been functioning since 1970. The agreement of 1970 also stipulated for its review after a period of 30 years with effect from 9-11-1958 and once in every 30 years thereafter. Though the discussions between the Government of Kerala and Tamil Nadu, both at official and ministerial level, have been held, no consensus in the matter of the review of agreement could be reached. However, the Joint Water Regulation Board is functioning and there is no set back to the project on account of the differences between the two Governments on review of the agreement.