

Government of Karnataka from doing the same?

**THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA):** (a) to (c) Upper Krishna Project comprises of Upper Krishna Stage-I and Stage-II. Stage-I Project was initially approved by the the Planning ommission in November, 1963 at an estimated cost of Rs. 58.2 crores for irrigating an area of 2.424 lakh hectares (Ha). Subsequently, after examining various techno-economic and inter-State aspects, the revised project to irrigate an area of 4.25 lakh hectares was approved at an estimated cost of Rs. 283.65 crores during April, 1978. Upper Krishna Project Stage-I now comprises of two dams namely, Narayanapur and Almati across river Krishna having a combined live storage of about 60 thousand Million Cubic feet (TMC). The project envisages annual water utilisation of 119 thousand Million Cubic Feet (TMC). Recently, the revised estimate of the Upper Krishna Project Stage-I has been cleared by the Planning Commission at the cost of Rs. 1215 crores approximately. The Karnataka State Government has not finalised and sent the Upper Krishna Project Stage-II to the Centre for appraisal.

#### **Issue of Commemorative Postal Stamps**

1280. **SHRI RAM KAPSE:** Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state the procedure followed by the Government for issue of commemorative postal stamps in the country?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU):** A Philatelic Advisory Committee functions to advise the Government regarding issue of commemorative postage stamps and other related matters. Proposals for issue of commemorative stamps received from various sources are examined in

consultation with the Philatelic Advisory Committee and with reference to the prescribed guidelines. Issue of a limited number of commemorative stamps is approved during an year keeping in view the guidelines, recommendations of the Philatelic Advisory Committee and various other factors. In exceptional cases decisions are also taken with the approval of the Minister for Communications.

#### **Telephone Facility to Villages of Chhota Nagpur and Santhal Pargana of Bihar**

1281. **SHRI KARIYA MUNDA:** Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to provide telephone facility to all the villages of Chhota Nagpur and Santhal Pargana of Bihar in near future; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU):** (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is proposed to provide telephone facilities in village Panchayats during Eighth Plan and the remaining villages in the Ninth Plan.

[Translation]

#### **Execution of Soviet Technician by ULFA**

1282. **SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI:** Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware of the kidnapping and subsequent execution of the Soviet technician Gritchenki by ULFA militants of Assam;

(b) if so, the efforts made earlier by the Government to secure his release; and