

(b) if so, the number of such universities and the amount allocated for this purpose; and

(c) the other details thereof ?

**THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION (SHRI K.C. PANT) :** (a) The Central Government is considering a proposal to establish a National Open University.

(b) Only one such university is proposed to be set up by the Central Government in the Seventh Plan. A provision of Rs. 75 lakhs has been made in the budget for 1985-86. The total outlay for the scheme in the Seventh Plan has not yet been finalised.

(c) The detailed project report for the National Open University has not yet been finalised.

**Enquiry into the Disappearance of  
M.V. Kairali**

3642. **SHRI T. RASHEER :** Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have completed the enquiry into the disappearance of M.V. Kairali; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI) :** (a) Yes.

(b) A formal investigation was conducted into the disappearance of the vessel M.V. 'Kairali' by the Chief Presidency Magistrate, Kottayam. According to the investigation report M.V. 'Kairali' is presumed to have sunk in deep seas due to adverse weather conditions. There is no reason to believe that the vessel was unseaworthy in any way at the time of departure from Mormugao on 30th June, 1979. It was manned by competent officers and crew and it was provided with the relevant life saving, navigational distress and communication equipment. According to evidence recorded, the cargo of iron ore on board was properly loaded and well distributed in all the holds and there was no over loading.

**Conversion of Madras-Egmore-Tanjore  
Line into Broad Gauge**

3643. **SHRI E. S. M. PAKEER MOHAMED) :** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have any proposal to convert the Madras-Egmore-Tanjore Metre Gauge line into Broad Gauge; and

(b) if so, when and if not, the reasons therefor ?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) :** (a) No, Sir.

(b) It is not possible to take up this conversion project due to severe constraint of resources.

[Translation]

**Kosi Canal in Bihar**

3644. **SHRI ABDUL HANNAN ANSARY :** Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) when was the work on Kosi Canal Project in Bihar State started;

(b) whether it is a fact that work on the project is not progressing satisfactorily and its scheduled completion time is already over; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken by the Government in this matter and when it is likely to be completed ?

**THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) :** (a) to (c) Work in the Eastern Kosi Canals system was started in 1959 and that on the Western Kosi Canal in 1971.

The Eastern Kosi Canal System has been mostly completed by now. The construction schedule of Western Kosi Canal had to be revised. The State Government is advised from time to time to allocate more funds and other resources to complete the scheme expeditiously. The Project works are also being monitored at State level as well as by the Central Water Commission.