

metres (436 feet) in the first instance. Thereafter the data for actual flow of water in the dam will be observed for a period of five years. If during any three out of these five years, the flow of water-discharge is adequate as assessed in the award, the decision regarding raising the reservoir level to 138.68 metres (455 feet) could be considered.

Construction of the dam will proceed pari-passu with the resettlement and rehabilitation of project affected persons as per terms of the Award and relief and rehabilitation Policies laid down by the States in this regard. The States shall ensure speedy and proper implementation of the relief and rehabilitation measures.

[Translation]

Promotion of Sanskrit Language

2976. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH : Will the Minister HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the steps taken by the Union Government to promote Sanskrit language in the country particularly in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh;

(b) whether the 'Rashtriya Sanskrit Shikshak Sansthan' provides grants to the Sanskrit Vidyalayas;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government propose to provide grants to the Sanskrit Vidyalayas of East Champaran district of Bihar by giving recognition to them; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) Government have been promoting the Sanskrit language in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh as well as the rest of the country through the Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan, New Delhi, Maharishi Sandipan Rashtriya Ved Vidya Pratishthan, two Deemed Universities and the Central Plan Scheme of financial assistance to States/UTs for the development of Sanskrit.

(a) and (c). Under the scheme of Financial Assistance to Voluntary Sanskrit Organisations, the Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan has provided in 1995-96 financial assistance to 404 Voluntary Sanskrit Organisations/Sanskrit Vidyalayas in the country for meeting the expenditure on salary of teachers, scholarships to students, library books etc. Of these 404 organisations 109 are in Uttar Pradesh and 22 in Bihar.

(d) and (e) The Government of Bihar have not so far sent any proposal for assistance to Sanskrit Vidyalayas of East Champaran.

[English]

Birth Centenary of Ghalib

2977. SHRI SHATRUGHAN PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether two hundred years of the Birth of Great Urdu Indian Poet Mirza Ghalib are going to be completed;

(b) whether the Government propose to celebrate the bi-centenary of the poet in Delhi at international level, who was the true representative of the mixed culture;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government have formulated any scheme to protect the House of Mirza Ghalib in Delhi as a National monument; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMALI) : (a) Yes, Sir; 200th birth anniversary of Mirza Ghalib falls in December, 1997.

(b) and (c). A proposal to celebrate the birth bi-centenary of Mirza Ghalib is under the consideration of the Government.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

Deteriorating Condition of Minority Colleges

2978. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the financial condition of some of the minority colleges in the country is not better;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to provide grants to these institutions;

(c) whether the Government propose to set up more minority schools and colleges in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) and (b). University Grants Commission (UGC) provides development grants, as per the prescribed norms, to all colleges including Minority colleges, which have been recognised by the Commission and declared fit to receive such financial assistance from UGC and other Central Sources in terms of the rules/regulations framed under the UGC Act.

(c) and (d). Schools are generally set up by the State Governments/ UT Administration or private trust/

agencies. Department of Education has also set up Kendriya Vidyalayas and Novodaya Vidyalayas which are open to all, irrespective of their caste, creed, sex or region. Colleges are established by State Governments universities or private trusts keeping in view the requirement of education in the given region and availability of resources. Central Government or UGC do not set up any colleges on their own.

[Translation]

Land Submerged Due to Seepage

2979. SHRI NIHAL CHAND CHAUHAN : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether thousands of acres of land submerged due to seepage in the Hanumangarh of Rajasthan;

(b) whether there is any proposal to give financial assistance by the Central Government to the State Government to deal with the problem of seepage; and

(c) if so, the quantum thereof and details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) As reported by Govt. of Rajasthan about 6000 ha. of area under Command of Bhakra Canal System and Indira Gandhi Nahar Stage-I in Hanumangarh district are affected due to seepage.

(b) No Sir, Central Assistance is provided to States in the form of Block Loan and Block Grants and not tied to any specific project, programme or region.

(c) Does not arise.

[English]

Capacity of Periyar Dam

2980. SHRI A.G.S. RAM BABU : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether any proposal is lying with the Union Government in regard to increase in the capacity of Periyar Dam. Tamil Nadu from 136 feet to 152 feet;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken/ being taken by the Government in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) to (c). Mulla Periyar Dam was constructed in 1897 with Full Reservoir Level at Elevation at 152 ft. The safety of the dam was reviewed in 1979 and it was decided to fill reservoir upto elevation 136 ft. only till strengthening works of the dam were completed by the Government of Tamil Nadu. The strengthening works have since been completed by the Government of Tamil Nadu. However, the Government of Kerala has not agreed to fill the reservoir beyond elevation 136 ft. This Ministry has taken up the matter with the Government of Kerala who have informed that

an Adhoc Committee of the State Legislators had examined the issues and has recommended constitution of a technical committee of experts to study the safety of the dam.

Congestion on NH-35 in West Bengal

2981. SHRI CHITTA BASU : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that wide spread traffic congestion between Chandpara and Bongaon in North 24 Parganas of West Bengal on the NH-35, is causing severe inconveniences for the people of Bongaon town and other neighbouring places;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Indo-Bangladesh trade is being adversely affected by these frequent congestions;

(c) whether Government of West Bengal have since submitted any package of proposals to meet the situation;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps the Government propose to take to ease the congestion?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) to (e). On NH-35, near Bongaon, trucks awaiting clearance at Bangla Desh border checkpost, get lined up by the roadside. In order to streamline traffic flow near checkpost, work of construction of another 2 lane road parallel to the existing NH between Hakar bridge and Bangladesh border and widening single lane reaches near border to 5.5 m. width, has been sanctioned and the same is at tendering stage. Besides, the construction of truck parking layby near the checkpost is also proposed.

[Translation]

Extension of N.H.

2982. JUSTICE GUMAN MAL LODHA : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to extend the length of National Highways in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether a National Highway Authority of India was set up for extension and development of the National Highways in the country; and

(d) if so, the amount of annual average expenditure incurred on the said authority during the previous years?

THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) and (b). There is no such proposal at present.

(c) The National Highways Authority of India was set up as a Central agency for taken up the development and maintenance of National Highways.