

para-Kuriakutty Multi-purpose project involving construction of three reservoirs for power generation and irrigation, would create adverse environmental affect as it submerges evergreen forests and cash crop plantations. The reaction of the State Government in the matter is awaited.

University Grants Commission Plan to Encourage Autonomous Colleges

184. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the University Grants Commission's plan to encourage State Governments and Universities to increase the number of autonomous colleges and educational institutions in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether there is considerable opposition to this proposal from the Universities and students and teachers organisations ; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION (SHRI K.C. PANT) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Although the scheme was initiated in the 4th Plan, not many colleges have been conferred autonomous status so far. The Commission has proposed that more universities and State Governments should be persuaded to confer autonomous status on colleges which is a necessary reform to decentralise university administration and to improve the scope for academic innovation and development.

(c) and (d). An assessment of the performance of some autonomous colleges made by the University of Madras indicates that the overall academic achievement of these colleges has been appreciable. There have however been some reservation that the innovations introduced in these colleges placed more obligations on teachers and students.

The Government is of the view that the scheme should be extended to cover more colleges as a measure of decentralisation of university administration, and for promotion of innovations and development.

Rationalisation and Simplification of Port Charges

185. SHRI SOMNATH RATH : Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the port charges have not been revised since long ;

(b) if so, whether Government have received any proposal to revise the port charges from different ports ; and

(c) what steps are proposed to be taken to rationalise and simplify the existing port charges and other levies in the interest of users ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI) : (a) and (b). Proposals for revision of port charges are received from various Port Trusts from time to time. Port charges for a variety of services have been revised on different dates in the recent past between November, 1983 and November, 1984. At present a proposal for comprehensive revision and rationalisation of Port Tariff received from Paradip Port Trust is receiving attention.

(c) The Directing Group appointed by the Ministry of Shipping and Transport in April, 1983 to study and make recommendations regarding uniform documentation systems, simplified payment procedures and rationalisation on tariff structure submitted its report in August, 1984. The Directing Group has made a number of recommendations to rationalise and simplify the existing port charges and other levies in the Major Ports.

An empowered Committee has been appointed to examine these recommendations and it has commenced its deliberations to suggest the requisite steps for

follow up action on the recommendations of the Directing Group.

Draught at the Port Areas of Calcutta and Haldia

186. SHRI AJIT KUMAR SAHA : Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that with the Farakka issue still in abeyance, the draught position at the port areas of Haldia and Calcutta is becoming quite complex ;

(b) if so, measure taken by the Government to ensure the river-way free for incoming and outgoing traffic ; and

(c) details of the progress made in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI) : (a) to (c). At present the draft to the Port of Calcutta is governed by Balari Bar and to the Port of Haldia by Auckland Bar, downstream of Diamond Harbour. In order to improve the drafts to Calcutta and Haldia a comprehensive scheme was sanctioned by the Government in 1982. The scheme envisages construction of two Guide-walls viz. at upstream and downstream to Nayachara Island, Bank Protection Works in the Estuary, Capital Dredging and procurement of Navigational aids to facilitate navigation. Presently a 2800 metre long upstream guidewall, to Navachara Island, is under construction. Some Bank Protection Works are also in Progress.

International Symposium Workshop on "Iodine Nutrition Thyroxine and Brain Development"

187. SHRIMATI MADHURI SINGH : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether recently an International symposium workshop on "iodine nutrition

thyroxine and brain development" was held in the capital ;

(b) the number of scientists participated and the names of the countries along with the conclusions reached at in the symposium ; and

(c) other details of the symposium ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA). (a) Ye, Sir.

(b) and (c). 120 scientists from India, China, Canada, Belgium, U.S.A., Australia, Nepal, Spain, Indonesia, U.K., Japan, Singapore, Bangladesh, Finland and Algeria participated in the symposium.

The symposium workshop reviewed the rapid progress of research on the subject and made the following major recommendations :

(i) Create an awareness that adequate iodine is essential for the full mental and physical development of human beings ;

(ii) Implement the iodisation programme by 2000 A D., and

(iii) Promote further research on relationship of iodine, nutrition, thyroid function and brain development.

Power Shortage in Orissa

188. SHRI K. PRADHANI : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the acute power shortage in Orissa due to low water levels in the hydel reservoirs forcing a 30 per cent power-cut on high-tension consumers, has virtually crippled several power intensive industries in the State ; and

(b) if so, what assistance do Government propose to render to the Orissa State for early completion of the on-going hydel power projects like the one at Rangati and diversion of power from the neighbouring grid like Satpura in M.P. to