

Dewaterisation of land in the Pogla-Bandoi river basin

4550. SHRI ZAINAL ABEDIN : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the execution of a scheme of dewaterisation of the inundated land in the Pogla-Bandoi river basin area is on the progress ;

(b) if so, the progress so far achieved and when the execution of the scheme is likely to be completed ;

(c) the area to be made cultivable after the completion of the scheme and number of farmers to be benefited by the scheme ;

(d) whether it is also a fact that the scheme was scheduled to be completed long ago ; and

(e) if so, the reasons for the delay in implementing the scheme ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Civil works of the two regulators across the rivers Pagla and Bansloi are almost complete. The remaining work of control gates is scheduled to be completed by December, 1986.

(c) An area of about 41 Sq. Km. is expected to be made cultivable after the completion of the scheme. It is estimated that it will benefit a population of about 69,000.

(d) The original date of completion was 31st December, 1981.

(e) The main reason for the delay in the completion of the works was the failure on the part of the contractor to whom the work was previously allotted. In view of the poor progress of the works, necessary action in accordance with the contractual provisions was taken against the contractor and the contract was rescinded on 29.9.82.

The work was again allotted to two new contractors in July 1983 who have almost completed the civil works.

Guidelines issued to states for fixation of freight rates for public carriers

4551. SHRI ASUTOSH LAW : Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have issued guidelines to different State Government and Union Territories regarding statutory fixation of the maximum and/or minimum freight rates for public carriers under Section 43 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1939 ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI Z.R. ANSARI) : (a) It is the State Governments which are empowered, in terms of provisions of Section 43 of the Motor Vehicles Act 1939, to issue directions to the respective State Transport Authorities for fixing maximum and minimum freight rates for Public Carriers.

(b) Does not arise.

Centres for development and research in Yoga and Naturopathy

4552. SHRI I. RAMA RAI : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) how many centres are there under the Central Government for development and research in Yoga and Naturopathy ;

(b) whether it is a fact that the function of these centres are held up due to the delay in posting some of the senior officers ;

(c) whether there is any proposal to give grant for the development of the existing centre at Neeleshwar which is now being run by a Committee or to take over the same and run it as a Central Council