

[Translation]

Scheme to Link Rivers

486 SHRI KACHRU BHAI RAUT
SHRI DATTA MEGHE .

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state

(a) whether the scheme to link the rivers of the country with each other so that the country may not have to face floods, droughts, loss of lives and property, is still under consideration of the Government, and

(b) if so, the time by which the Government propose to implement the said scheme and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) (a) Yes, Sir National Perspective for Water Resources Development has been prepared by Government which envisages inter linkages between various peninsular rivers and Himalayan rivers separately for transfer of water from water surplus basins to water starved basins for optimum utilisation of water Resources. Government has established National Water Development Agency (NWDA) in 1982 to prepare feasibility reports for the water transfer links. 36 water transfer links, 17 under Peninsular Component and 19 under Himalayan Component have been proposed.

(b) The studies carried out the Agency for various water transfer links are sent to the concerned states for their comments/suggestions. These comments/suggestions alongwith the clarifications thereon by the Agency are discussed in the Technical Advisory Committee of the National Water Development Agency. The link projects can be considered for implementation after necessary agreements are reached amongst concerned States and therefore no time limit can be given.

Drainage System

487 SHRI VISHAMBHAR PRASAD NISHAD
Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state

(a) whether the drainage system of Fatehpur, Banda, Allahabad district of Uttar Pradesh has been technically cleared by the Chief Engineer of Uttar Pradesh Jal Nigam and Jal Sansthan

(b) if so, the total funds spent on the said work so far and the time by which the work is likely to be completed

(c) the funds made available during current financial year.

(d) whether the Government are considering to conduct an enquiry into the works done by the Superintending Engineer, and

(e) if so, the time by which the enquiry is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) (a) No drainage system of Fatehpur, Banda and Allahabad District has been technically approved by Uttar Pradesh Jal Nigam. Also Uttar Pradesh Jal Nigam does not prepare & technically approve the drainage system schemes for the Districts.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

[English]

National Library

488 SHRI PRADIP BHATTACHARYA Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state

(a) whether any projects for the expansion of National Library in Calcutta are pending with the Government, and

(b) if so, the time by which those will be cleared and implemented?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMALI) (a) No, Sir

(b) Does not arise

Pakistan Sponsored Terrorism

489 SHRI JAG MOHAN Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state

(a) whether leaders of the Group of Seven and Russia have approved in the last week of June 1996 a 40-point Plan to fight crime and terrorism

(b) whether Government propose to invite the attention of these leaders to Pakistan-sponsored terrorism in the State of Jammu and Kashmir and suggest to them to put pressure on Pakistan to end its sponsorship of terrorism in Kashmir, and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI P.K. GUJRAL) (a) Yes, Sir

(b) and (c) The attention of the Leaders of Group of Seven and Russia has been drawn at various levels during bilateral talks as well as at international fora, to Pakistan sponsored terrorism in the State of Jammu & Kashmir. This is an issue which is regularly discussed with the G-7 Governments in the course of diplomatic interaction.

Visa to Pak Nationals

490 DR YS RAJA SEKHARA REDDY Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state

(a) whether the Government propose to issue maximum number of visas to Pak nationals to visit India;

- (b) whether this is to be on reciprocal basis;
 (c) if so, the details thereof; and
 (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) to (d). In pursuance of our policy of encouraging people-to-people contact between India and Pakistan Government have decided, notwithstanding the constraints imposed by limitations of staff at our Mission in Islamabad, to substantially increase the number of visas issued to Pakistani nationals desiring to visit India.

Enhanced people-to-people contact would promote understanding between the two countries.

Report on World Population and Women in India

491. SHRI CHITTA BASU : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has since been drawn to the recent UN report on the world population and UNICEF report on the women in India;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(c) the steps taken to ameliorate the deplorable conditions of the Indian women?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMAI) : (a) Government is aware of the Report on "The State of World Population", 1996 brought out by United Nations Population Fund.

(b) and (c). Government has taken note of the Report which gives a global overview of the rise in population particularly in urban areas, difficulties in providing adequate infrastructure, urban poverty, development of women, investment in health and education etc.

The Government is implementing a large number of women-specific programmes for their advancement which, inter-alia, focus on better opportunities for their education and health-care as well as on greater opportunities for economic empowerment through formation of self-help groups of women and through convergence of various state-sponsored schemes and programmes at the grass-root level.

Sainik Schools

492. SHRI SURESH KALMADI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item published in the 'Pioneer'

dated June 29, 1996 under the caption "Sainik Schools hold no hope for soldiers"; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement is enclosed.

STATEMENT

The caption "Sainik Schools hold no hope for soldiers" given to the news item published in "The Pioneer" dated June 29, 1996, is misleading. There is no proposal to abandon the Sainik Schools by the Government.

2. The scheme to establish Sainik Schools was introduced in 1961. The aim of the Sainik Schools is to prepare boys academically, physically and mentally for entry into the National Defence Academy. The other objectives include removal of regional and social imbalances in the officers cadre of Armed Forces and bringing Public School education within the reach of common man.

3. 4720 cadets from the 18 Sainik Schools established between 1961 to 1978 in 18 major States of the country have joined the National Defence Academy upto 1995. All students including those from Sainik Schools who have qualified 10+2 or equivalent examination are eligible for appearing for written examination for National Defence Academy conducted by UPSC. The average intake into NDA of Sainik Schools students out of a total of 660 admitted annually, for the last six years has been 63. The details of performance of Sainik Schools students in UPSC, NDA entrance examination, and at Services Selection Board vis-a-vis other eligible students is as under :-

	Sainik Schools	All other Schools
(a) Average pass percentage at UPSC, NDA Entrance Examination	36	09
(b) SSB Qualifiers at first attempt	08	02

These figures will show that Sainik Schools are providing their share of cadets to NDA

4. A proposal has been made for transfer of Sainik Schools to Ministry of Human Resource Development which in conformity with the recommendation of the Standing Committee of Parliament on Defence (1994-95), 10th Lok Sabha, that education is not an essential activity for the