

special grants to Assam for expediting completion of the work of Brahmaputra Board;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) to (c). The Brahmaputra Board set up during December, 1981 under a Statutory Act, under the Ministry of Water Resources is provided 100% grant-in-aid for carrying out its activities such as survey, investigation and preparation of master plans for the Brahmaputra and Barak river systems. So far an amount of Rs. 99.79 crore has been released to the Brahmaputra Board for its various activities.

However, even though the implementation of flood management schemes in Assam is the responsibility of the State Government, considering the complexity and magnitude of flood problem in the Brahmaputra valley, the Central Government has been providing Central loan assistance to the State of Assam, since 1974-75, to undertake priority flood control schemes. Till 1995-96, an amount of Rs. 340.00 crore has been released to the State. During the year 1996-97, it is proposed to provide to the Govt. of Assam Rs. 25 crore, on reimbursement basis, as grant for flood control works.

Indo-Nepal Talks

444. SHRI DADA BABURAO PARANJPE : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that high level talks took place between India and Nepal at Kathmandu on January 28, 1996;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the issues discussed in these talks; and

(c) the agreements reached as a result of the talks?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) to (c). Shri Pranab Mukherjee, then External Affairs Minister, paid an official visit to Nepal from 26-29 January, 1996 at the head of a delegation which included Foreign Secretary, Secretary, Ministry of Power and Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources. He held discussions with his counterpart as well as other Nepalese dignitaries on a variety of subjects of mutual interest including cooperation in spheres of trade, commerce, water resources, tourism and infrastructural development in Nepal. He also called on His Majesty the King of Nepal and the Prime Minister of Nepal.

The two sides initiated a "Treaty concerning the Integrated Development of the Mahakali River

including Sarada Barrage, Tanakpur Barrage and Pancheshwar Project."

National Annual Award on Women's Day

445. SHRI PINAKI MISRA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether in order to provide due status to women, especially that in their role of mother and a house-wife Government have considered the desirability of introducing a National Annual Award on Women's Day every year, to be named in a suitable manner such as 'The Mother of the Year Award' to be awarded to the woman who plays the role of a mother best;

(b) if so, the decision taken in the matter;

(c) whether similar awards are also proposed to be introduced at the State and district levels, and

(d) the steps taken in pursuance thereof?

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

(b) to (d). Does not arise.

[Translation]

Deployment of M-11 Missiles

446. DR. RAMESH CHAND TOMAR
SHRI MOHAN RAWALE :
SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE :
SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL :
DR. MURLI MANDOAR JOSHI :
DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI :
SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH :
SHRI DEVI BUX SINGH

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have seen reports in the US press about the deployment of nuclear-capable M-11 missiles by Pakistan acquired from China,

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

(c) whether this has posed a serious threat to our security, and

(d) if so, the steps being taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) and (b). Government have seen press reports regarding the deployment of nuclear capable M-11 missiles by Pakistan. Government have been aware of the acquisition of these missiles and consider it a matter of great concern