

has pruned down the outlay of Rs. 730.21 crores. In view of this, outlays on the development and modernisation of airports earlier proposed will have to be revised, and therefore it is not possible to indicate amounts earmarked.

Railway Bridge connecting Basaraha-Sultanganj over Ganga

1704. Dr. C.S VERMA : Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the need to construct a railway bridge to connect Basarha with Sultanganj over the Ganga river has been felt ;

(b) whether the construction of the bridge will have the way for development of North Bihar ; and

if so, whether there is any proposal to construct the bridge and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) to (c) There is no proposal for a rail bridge over Ganga river at this location. A survey for a new rail bridge across Ganga river near Patna is however being carried out to determine its cost estimates and financial remunerativeness.

Telephone facilities in trains

1705. SHRI RADHAKANTA DIGAL: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether phone facilities are proposed to be provided in the long distance trains in India as in some of the other countries ; and

(b) if so, the steps taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA) : (a) There is no such proposal at present.

(b) Does not arise.

Barak Dam Project

1706. SHRI SUDARSAN DAS : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the project Report for the proposed Barak Dam Project at Tipaimukh in Mizoram has been prepared and the techno-economic scrutiny completed ; and

(b) if so, when is the dam likely to be cleared ?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) & (b) The Barak Dam Project at Tipaimukh estimated to cost Rs. 1078.00 crores with an installed capacity of 1500 MW of power is under techno-economic scrutiny by the Department of Power/Central Electricity Authority and will be considered for acceptance after its techno-economic viability is established.

Assistance given to Orissa for irrigation schemes in Sixth Plan

1707. SHRI SOMNATH RATH : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of assistance sought by State Government of Orissa during the Sixth Plan period for minor; medium and major irrigation schemes; and

(b) the assistance given to the State Government for the irrigation schemes during the Sixth Plan by the Central Government ?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) & (b) Irrigation projects are funded and implemented by the State Government as part of their developmental activities and Central assistance is given as block loans and grants and is not tied to any project or sector of development. However, during the Sixth Plan period, special central assistance of Rs. 15.59 crores for irrigation schemes was requested by the State Government but due to constraint of resources this could not be provided.