

Libraries and book forums during Fifth Plan Period

3573 SHRI SUKHDEO PRASAD VERMA: Will the Minister of EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of libraries and book forums opened and started during the Fifth Five Year Plan period in the rural and urban areas both by Government and through its other aided agencies; and

(b) whether the general demand of such libraries has been rising in various metropolitan cities in India; and

(c) if so, the facts thereof and action proposed to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE (SHRIDHANNA SINGH GULSHAN):

(a) to (c). Under the Constitution the subject "Libraries", to the exclusion of Central Libraries or libraries declared by Parliament to be of national importance, is a State subject. However, with the voluntary co-operation of the State Governments, steps have been taken for the co-ordinated development of libraries in rural as well as urban areas including metropolitan cities. These form part of the Central and State Five Year Plans. Apart from maintaining and developing the libraries of national importance, the Central Government is giving financial assistance to libraries in various parts of the country and is also supplying books to them through the Raja Rammohan Roy Library Foundation

Preservation of Buxa Fort

3574. SHRI PIUS TIRKEY: Will the Minister of EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Buxa Fort, which is situated in Himalayan Terrain and

which is also a historical asset of India, is recognised by the Government of India as a place of historical values;

(b) if so, what steps have so far been taken for the preservation of the historical Fort; and

(c) if not, the reason thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE (DR. PRATAP CHANDRA CHUNDER): (a) to (c). The archaeological, historical and architectural importance of the fort is being assessed and in case it is found to be of national importance further steps will be taken to declare it as a monument of national importance under the provisions of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act 1958.

Irrigation projects of Orissa under Inter-State Water Disputes

3575. SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMAN-
GO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some Major and Medium Irrigation Projects of Orissa are under Inter-State Water disputes and not yet settled;

(b) if so, what is the present position of these projects;

(c) whether the Government of Orissa referred the same to the Ministry to settle the dispute; and

(d) if not the steps taken by that State to settle the disputes and include the same for execution?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): (a) and (b). One medium irrigation project of Orissa State namely Baghalati Irrigation Project has been pending for clearance as there are some differences