

(b) whether a large number of Indian pilgrims were killed/injured at Mina due to stampede;

(c) if so, the exact number of killed/injured at the site;

(d) the efforts made by the Government to provide assistance to these Haj pilgrims;

(e) the details of compensation paid to the families of these victims; and

(f) the steps taken by the Government to see these incidents do not occur in the future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) According to the Saudi Government, as on May 17, 1998, 95, 119 Indian pilgrims went for Haj, of which a total of 63,583 pilgrims had gone through the Haj Committee, Mumbai. Their State-wise distribution is : 11 from Andaman & Nicobar Island, 1,966 from Andhra Pradesh, 601 from Assam, 912 from Bihar, 2 from Chandigarh, 12 from Daman & Diu, 2,568 from Delhi, 34 from Dadra & Nagar Haveli, 13 from Goa, 5,650 from Gujarat, 12 from Himachal Pradesh, 1053 from Haryana, 3,736 from Jammu & Kashmir, 3,854 from Karnataka, 5,373 from Kerala, 144 from Lakshwadeep, 10,410 from Maharashtra, 116 from Manipur, 3,955 from Madhya Pradesh, 190 from Orissa, 152 from Punjab, 52 from Pondicherry, 3,456 from Rajasthan, 3,333 from Tamil Nadu, 5 from Tripura, 14,239 from Uttar Pradesh and 1,734 from West Bengal.

(b) and (c) 32 Indian nationals were killed in the Mina stampede on 9th April 1988. A few sustained minor injuries and were discharged from the hospitals within a couple of days.

(d) Prompt instructions were sent to the Consulate of India, Jeddah to render all possible assistance to the injured and to the next of kin of the deceased.

(e) No compensation has been paid.

(f) We remain in close touch with the Saudi Government, which improves upon the Haj arrangements every year. It had expanded the Jamarat area following the 1994 tragedy (in which 270 pilgrims had died) to accommodate more people. We also propose to provide improved training and orientation programmes for pilgrims to prepare them for the safe completion of their Haj rituals.

Brahmaputra Board

163. SHRI NRIPEN GOSWAMI :
SHRI BIJOY HANDIQUE :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Brahmaputra Board has prepared a Master Plan recently to tame this river in Assam and also desilt the river;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the amount earmarked for the control of soil erosion and flood protection of the said river during the Ninth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) The Brahmaputra Board has prepared Master Plans for flood management of Brahmaputra river covering the North Eastern States including Assam which envisages construction of moderate to high dams on major tributaries of Brahmaputra and undertaking schemes for prevention of erosion and drainage congestion aimed at integrated development of the Brahmaputra basin. Desilting of the Brahmaputra river has not been envisaged in the Master Plans.

(c) Allocation for the Water Resources Sector in the Centre for Ninth Five Year Plan is yet to be finalised.

Fishing Harbours

164. SHRI RANJIB BISWAL : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether steps have been taken by the Government for the construction of some fishing harbours in Orissa;

(b) if so, the location decided and the estimate cost of each fishing harbour project; and

(c) the steps taken to expedite the completion thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) The Government of India have accorded administrative approval for the minor fishing harbour at Dhamra Stage-II in Bhadrak District at a cost of Rs. 640.00 lakh in March, 98.

(c) The Project has been sanctioned recently. However, the Administrative Approval issued on 23.3.98 for the Project stipulates that the Project should be completed within three years from the date of issue of the Administrative Approval.

Foreign Secretary Level Talks

165. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO :
DR. RAMKRISHNA KUSMARIA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the stalled Foreign Secretary level talks between India and Pakistan is likely to resume;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the major issues likely to be discussed; and

(d) the venue and date of next round of talks?