

enact suitable legislation for regulation and control of ground water development.

- (6) Formulation of a Centrally Sponsored Scheme to assist the States in artificial recharge of ground water. This scheme is at consultation stage.

[English]

World Bank Assistance

577. SHRI CHANDRESH PATEL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any loan has been provided by the World Bank to the State Governments of Gujarat, Maharashtra and U.P. to undertake water management projects in State recently;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the progress made by each State to achieve the target fixed for completion of work?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) No Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Kailash Mansarovar Yatra

578. SHRI SRIRAM CHAUHAN:

SHRI SHEELA GAUTAM:

SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR:

SHRI RAMANAND SINGH:

SHRI PANKAJ CHOUDHARY:

SHRI PRABHU DAYAL KATHERIA:

SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether China is willing to open a motorable route to Kailash-Mansarovar in Tibet; and

(b) if so, the progress made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) The possibility of providing an alternative route for the Yatra has been under discussion with the Chinese side since 1993.

We have proposed alternative routes through Shipki La (Himachal Pradesh) and the Demchok route through Ladakh (Jammu and Kashmir). The Chinese side have indicated that our proposals for alternative routes are under consideration in consultation with the local authorities in the Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR). They have cited difficulties in opening new routes on the grounds that it would involve travel over much

longer distances over difficult terrain with poor road conditions and lack of proper infrastructure for accommodation and communications. They have also expressed the view that development of infrastructure in these remote areas would not be an easy task and building facilities for alternative routes could take a long time. It could lead to a substantial escalation in the fee charged from Indian pilgrims (currently frozen at US \$500 per pilgrim until the year 2000 A.D.).

On the India side Government are willing to consider all possible routes, including the motorable option, taking into account the availability of infrastructure, logistical facilities and other relevant factors. Our efforts to open a new route are continuing.

Irrigation Projects in J & K

579. SHRI VISHNU DATT VAIDYA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether some projects of the National Water Management are under implementation in the State of Jammu and Kashmir at present; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the date of implementation, cost of each project and the total area of land which is likely to be irrigated after the completion of the said projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Sardar Sarovar Dam

580. DR. VALLABH BHAI KATHIRIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the present status of construction of Sardar Sarovar vis-a-vis the progress on upstream R & R works;

(b) whether the Sardar Sarovar Dam did not attain an obligatory minimum water level of 110 metre so far;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the time by which it is likely to attain the prescribed water level;

(d) whether the Government of Madhya Pradesh has been extending its cooperation for the resettlement of the oustees of the project;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the other measures being taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) At present, effective height of the Sardar Sarovar Dam is being maintained at EL81.5m. The progress upto 15.10.1998 on upstream Resettlement and Rehabilitation at the full height of Dam is as under: