

(a) the year-wise increase in the Power generation capacity of each of the power station in Bihar during last three years;

(b) whether the Government propose to increase the Power generation capacity of these Power stations in the state; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) The increase in power generation capacity in Bihar during the last three years is given below .

Name of Station	Existing capacity as on 31-3-95 (MW)	Additions during (MW)		
		1995-96	1996-97	1997-98
1. Eastern Gandak Canal HE	5	-	5	5
2. Sone Eastern Canal HE	-	3.3	-	-
3. Tenughat TPS	210	-	-	-
Central Sector				
1. Kahalgaon STPS	630	210	-	-

(b) and (c) Addition to capacity of the Tenughat TPS is under the consideration of the Government and Eastern Gandak Canel HE.

#### Norms for setting up of Technical Courses

2381. SHRI H.P. SINGH : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the norms prescribed by the Government to set up/ introduce technical and non-technical education courses/ centres;

(b) whether no technical and vocational education centre has been set up in Bhojpur district in the Central Bihar; and

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

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) As per the regulations framed under the AICTE Act, 1987, the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) considers granting approval to new courses and institutes in technical education after taking into account financial viability, manpower requirement of the region, technical competence, etc. of the applicant/society/ trust.

(b) and (c) As of now, there is no technical institute at Degree/Diploma level in Bhojpur District in Central Bihar. During 1996-97, one agency in Bhojpur was provided financial assistance for running innovative programmes in the field of vocational education.

#### Non-formal Education Centres

2382. SHRI SUSHIL CHANDRA VARMA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of non-formal education centres functioning in Madhya Pradesh;

(b) the year-wise amount spent thereon and the number of persons made literate through such centres during the last three years;

(c) whether the Government have received any complaints regarding, mal-functioning of these centres;

(d) if so, whether the Union Government would make an assessment as to what extent the amount spent on this scheme has been utilised; and

(e) whether this scheme is worth continuing?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) and (b) Under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Non-Formal Education (NFE), this Ministry has sanctioned 37,340 centres for Madhya Pradesh. The year-wise grants released during the last three years is as under:-

Year	Amount Released (Rs. in lakhs)
1995-96	2453.67
1996-97	2819.28
1997-98	2554.21

The curriculum of the NFE programme is based on Minimum levels of Learning, as such, the successful learners are treated at par with their counterparts in formal education.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. The Govt. of Madhya Pradesh as well as District Collectors have furnished/are furnishing fresh reports with regard to such complaints. The utilisation of amount spent on the Scheme is assessed/monitored through Quarterly Progress Reports and Annual Progress Reports.

(e) Yes, Sir.

[English]

#### Rural Libraries

2383. SHRI B.M. MENSINKAI : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the guidelines regarding the construction of Rural Libraries, and

(b) the details of the fund allotted for Rural Libraries during 1998-99 in the country, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) There is no scheme

for rural libraries under the Department and hence no guidelines.

(b) Does not arise.

#### **Purchase of Power from Pakistan**

2384. DR. RAVI MALLU : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the newsitem captioned "Move to buy power from Pak flayed" appearing in the Hindustan Times dated November 18, 1998;

(b) if so, whether the decision of the Union Government to buy power from Pakistan has adversely affected in the Jammu and Kashmir State; and

(c) the details of States in which the power purchased from Pak would be utilised?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Technical level discussions were held at Islamabad on Nov. 25-26, 1998 between the two countries on purchase of power from Pakistan. It was agreed during the discussions that the next round of discussions would be held in New Delhi on mutually convenient dates for consideration and in-principle agreement in the power export possibility identified for the short term and subject to the conclusion of such agreement, commercial discussions would follow. No final decision has yet been taken.

#### **Construction of Bombay-Ahmedabad-Baroda Express Highway**

2385. SHRI DINSHAW PATEL : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the work on Mumbai-Ahmedabad-Baroda Express Highway contracted to M/s Continental Constructions company in April 1986 is going to be undertaken soon;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the company has demanded more funds;

(d) if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;

(e) whether in view of the huge traffic on the route, the Government propose to make the said Highway into 4 lanes instead of 2 lanes; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. M. THAMBI DURAI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The balance work of Ahmedabad-Vadodara Expressway would be executed in two phases by the National Highways Authority of India as per details given below:-

(i) Phase-I : Ahmedabad to Nadiad (Km.0/0 to Km.43.4) and

(ii) Phase-II : Nadiad to Vadodara (Km.43.4 to Km. 93.302).

Proposals for prequalification of contractors for Phase I works have been invited.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. However, the demand was not accepted by the Government.

(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. The proposal is for the construction of 4-lane Expressway in view of huge traffic on this route.

[Translation]

#### **Setting up of Agarculture Information Centre**

2386. SHRI PANKAJ CHOUDHRY :  
SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH :  
DR. ASHOK PATEL :

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up agriculture information centres to provide the weather information to the farmers;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which these are likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) The Govt. of India has already an S&T Project on National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting (NCMRWF) and Development of Agrometeorological Services under the Deptt. of Science & Technology for providing medium range weather forecast based agrometeorological advisories to the farmers in various agroclimatic zones of the country.

(b) NCMRWF prepares agroclimatic zone-specific medium range forecast valid for 3 days and the same is disseminated through Telephone/FAX/VSAT to the Agrometeorological Forecasting Units (AMFUs) opened by the said National Centre at State Agricultural Universities/ICAR Institutes. These Units prepare weather based agriculture advisory bulletins on day-to-day basis and disseminate the same through mass communication modes like All India Radio, Doordarshan and Local News papers. Starting with establishment of five units in 1991, till date eighty units (AFMUs) have been opened which are at different stages of development.

(c) The remaining 47 Units to cover all the 127 agroclimatic zones of the country are proposed to be established during IXth Five Year Plan.

#### **Investment in Indian Ports**

2387. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn towards the news-item captioned 'British dal Bhartiya