

[Translation]

Irrigation Facilities in U.P.

3357. DR. RAM VILAS VEDANTI : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

- (a) whether the substantial area of cultivable land in Uttar Pradesh does not have any irrigation facilities;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) whether the Government have conducted any survey in this regard;
- (d) if so, the findings thereof; and
- (e) the effective steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) As per Land Use Statistics brought out by the Ministry of Agriculture for the year 1993-94 (latest), out of 20.84 million hectares of total cultivable area in Uttar Pradesh, the net area under irrigation is 11.56 million hectares.

(e) To expedite the development of irrigation facilities in the State of U.P., Central Loan Assistance of Rs. 67.00 crores have been earmarked for 4 major irrigation projects namely Sarda Sahayak, Saraju Nahar, Upper Ganga including Madhya Canal and Rajghat and 2 medium irrigation projects namely Gunta Nala Bandha and Kharif Channel in Hindon Doah of U.P. during 1996-97 under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme.

Dredging of Silt from Canals in Ghatampur Area (U.P.)

3358. SHRIMATI KAMAL RANI : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

- (a) the funds allocated for the dredging of silt from canals under the department of irrigation in Uttar Pradesh during the year 1996-97;
- (b) the amount allocated for dredging of silt from canals in Ghatampur area;
- (c) whether fake payments are being made for the removal of silt from canals with the connivance of officers and contractors of the Department of Irrigation;
- (d) whether any inquiry has been conducted by any agency in this regard;
- (e) if so, the outcome thereof and the corrective measures taken in this regard; and
- (f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Winding up of Disciplines by SAI

3359. CHAUDHARY RAMCHANDRA BENDA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Sports Authority of India has taken decision to close down the discipline of Gymnastics, Badminton, Table Tennis and Fencing from all the schemes;

(b) if so, whether the SAI has asked the parents of the students to bear the expenses of education, boarding/lodging etc. which were earlier paid to them; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI R. DHANUSHKODI ATHITHAN) : (a) In order to give more emphasis to priority disciplines non-priority disciplines like Gymnastic, Badminton, Table Tennis and Fencing are planned to be taken out from the SAI schemes.

(b) and (c) Regional Directors of Sports Authority of India have been asked to submit their recommendations with regard to closing down of disciplines for the consideration of the Empowered Committee. However, it has come to the notice of Sports Authority of India that one of the Regional Directors has issued instructions at his own level asking the parents of the children under the schemes to bear the expenses of education, boarding/lodging etc. These instructions are being withdrawn.

Afghanistan Problem

3360. SHRI DILEEP SANGHANI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the growing interference of Pakistan and some other countries in the internal affairs of Afghanistan;

(b) if so, whether the Government think that Pakistan's policy to destabilise Afghanistan endangers the security in the South Asia;

(c) if so, the steps taken by the Government to prevent such an eventuality and whether any negotiations with Russia, Iran and other countries have taken place by the Government in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Foreign interference in Afghanistan is not conducive to the peace and stability of the region including South Asia.