

(c) if so, the reaction of the Government of Pakistan thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (c) Government are aware of anti-Indian activities undertaken at the Gurudwaras during the visit of Indian Sikh pilgrims to Pakistan. These activities which are carried out by anti-Indian elements with the connivance of the Pakistani authorities violate the 1974 India-Pakistan Protocol on Visits to Religious Shrines. They also constitute intimidation and harassment of our pilgrims. Government have repeatedly lodged strong protests with Pakistan against these actions and have urged Pakistan to fulfill its commitments under the provisions of the Protocol. Government have also sought from Pakistan that all necessary steps be taken to ensure the security and safety of our pilgrims.

[English]

Irrigated Land in Karnataka

3137. SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total irrigated land in the country at present;

(b) whether percentage of irrigated land in Karnataka is far below than that of national level;

(c) if so, whether the Union Government have any specific plan to increase the percentage of irrigated land in the State; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) As per Land Use Statistics brought out by the Ministry of Agriculture for the year 1994-95 (latest), the percentage of Net Irrigated Area (NIA) in the country with respect to Net Sown Area (NSA) is about 37%. The said percentage for the State of Karnataka is about 22.3%.

(c) and (d) No specific schemes for bringing more unirrigated area under irrigation is under formulation by the Union Government, as irrigation is a state subject. However, with view to increase irrigated land through expeditious completion of selected ongoing Major & Medium Irrigation and Multipurpose Projects, the Union Government has launched "Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme" (AIBP) since 1996-97. Under the Programme, Central Loan Assistance (CLA) to the States is being provided on matching basis for projects costing Rs. 500 crores or more and are beyond the resource capability of

the States and for completion of other projects which are in the advanced stage of construction and could yield irrigation benefits in next four agricultural seasons. During 1996-97 and 1997-98, CLA amounting to Rs. 61.25 crores and Rs. 90.50 crores respectively were released to the State of Karnataka under AIBP as per details given below:

(In Rs. crores)

S. No.	Name of Project	Amount of CLA released		Total
		1996-97	1997-98	
1.	Upper Krishan St. I	57.00	50.00	107.00
2.	Malaprabha	1.50	12.00	13.50
3.	Hirehalla	2.75	6.00	8.75
4.	Ghataprabha	—	15.00	15.00
5.	Karanja	—	7.50	7.50
Total		61.25	90.50	151.75

Pending Projects of Rajasthan

3138. ER. SHANKAR PANNU : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether several project relating to the State of Rajasthan are pending with the Union Government;

(b) if so, since when these projects are pending; and

(c) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken on these projects?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING & PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) to (c) No project pertaining to the State of Rajasthan is pending at present in the Planning Commission for approval.

Non-Proliferation Treaty

3139. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO :
PROF. P.J. KURIEN :
DR. Y.S. RAJA SEKARA REDDY :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has started talk towards achieving the goal of Universal and time bound disarmament and nuclear weapon free world in a non-discriminatory manner;

(b) if so, whether Government has agreed to sign NPT if India's view point is considered; and

(c) to what extent India has successful for opening the dialogue on disarmament?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (c) India has been at the forefront for calls towards global nuclear disarmament, being the first to call for a complete halt to nuclear testing as a means of preparing the ground for negotiations for prohibition and elimination of nuclear weapons more than forty years ago. In subsequent years, we have, individually and collectively with other like minded countries, put forward a number of initiatives intended to move the process forward including an Action Plan for creating a nuclear-weapon-free-world. More recently, India has welcomed the Joint Declaration, issued on June 9, 1998, by the Foreign Ministers of eight countries entitled "Towards a Nuclear-Weapon-Free World. The Need for a New Agenda". India has declared its readiness to cooperate closely with this initiative aimed at establishing a nuclear-weapon-free-world in the coming millennium and the establishment of an equitable, non-discriminatory, non-violent and lasting international security order. India has consistently maintained that the NPT is discriminatory and flawed treaty, dividing the world into nuclear 'haves' and 'have nots'. The indefinite and unconditional extension of the NPT, perpetuates the existence of nuclear weapon in the hands of the five countries. As such there is no change in our stand on the NPT.

Investment in Agricultural Sector

3140. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have formulated any scheme to increase the investment in agricultural sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof along with the details of the investment made during the last three years, State-wise; and

(c) the time by which the scheme is likely to be implemented by the Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) to (c) There is no scheme exclusively meant for increasing investment in agricultural sector. However, various specific schemes are being implemented for development of horticulture, fisheries, rainfed farming, creation of infrastructure for minor irrigation and post-harvest management, etc. which lead to improvement in productivity and production and ultimately saving and capital formation. Further, in order to encourage investment in agriculture, a new Rural Infrastructure development Fund (RIDF) within the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development has been established. In the Union Budget for 1998-99, an additional allocation of Rs. 500 crore has been made for RIDF. A new scheme stet Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) was initiated during 1996-97, with a provision of Rs. 900 crore for providing assistance to States by way of loans for timely completion of selected large and multipurpose irrigation projects. The 1998-99 Union Budget proposes 57% increased allocation for AIBP over the previous year. An enhanced allocation for watershed development in rainfed areas would also result in higher investment.

The details of gross fixed capital formation in agriculture (irrigation) by States and Centre at current prices for 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 (latest available) are given in the statement enclosed.

Statement

Estimate of Gross Fixed Capital Formation in Agriculture (Irrigation) by States and Centre (at current prices)

(Rs. Lacs)

Sl. No.	State/Union Territory	Year		
		1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andhra Pradesh	49212	59540	55086
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	365	365	1314
3.	Assam	7469	6866	7363