

implementation of resettlement and rehabilitation programmes. The draft policy document in this regard has been finalised by the National Water Board for consideration of the National Water Resources Council. The implementation of the said Policy depends on its adoption by the National Water Resources Council.

[Translation]

Ground Water in Bihar

*4105. SHRI SURENDRA PRASAD YADAV (Jhanabad): Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any scheme from the Government of Bihar for increasing the underground water level in the State;

(b) if so, the latest position thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government propose to implement this scheme in other State also;

(d) if so, whether the Government have mobilised additional financial resources for the implementation of the scheme; and

(e) the time by which the Union Government are likely to clear the scheme?

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

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Jasauli Irrigation Project

*4106. SHRI RAM SHAKAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to undertake major irrigation projects in the country during the current year;

(b) if so, the present status of the Jasauli irrigation project in Sonbhadra district of Uttar Pradesh; and

(c) the time by which the work on the project is likely to commence?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) Irrigation being a State subject, irrigation projects are undertaken by the State Governments out of their own resources and as per their own priority. Central Government gives only investment clearance to major and medium irrigation projects.

(b) and (c) No project by name Jasauli Irrigation Project has been received in Central Water Commission from the State Government of Uttar Pradesh for techno-economic appraisal.

[English]

Visit to Religious Places

4107. SHRI S.S. OWASI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of pilgrims who visited various religious places abroad during each of the last three years, religious place-wise;

(b) the criteria being adopted for their selection, religious place-wise; and

(c) the financial/logistic/organisational assistance provided to the pilgrims religious place wise and number of pilgrims likely to visit these places during 1999?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) to (c) The number of pilgrims who have visited various religious places abroad during the last three years religious place-wise is as under:

	1996	1997	1998
Haj Pilgrims	75,346	81,766	94,602
Kailash Mansarovar Yatris	435	516	600 (approx.)
Sikh/Sehejdhari and Hindu Jathas to Pakistan	5085	5200	2830 till now