

(b) if so, the details thereof and response on Bangladesh Government to this proposals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) :

(a) Yes Sir.

(b) The protocol between the Government of India and the Government of Bangladesh on Indian Water Transit and Trade, last renewed on November 11, 1997, provides for the transportation of goods on inland waterways via Bangladesh to points in Assam. The issue of transit by road was raised again while discussing the modalities of a Motor Vehicles Agreement (MVA) in September 1997. A draft agreement has been handed over to the Government of Bangladesh.

[English]

Special Allocation for North-East

1162. SHRI BHIM DAHAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government had decided last year that Central Ministries would allocate ten per cent of their budget to the North-East Region;

(b) if so, the total amount allocated during 1997-98 and actually spent so far;

(c) whether the Government propose that the funds allocated for the North-East Region should not lapse and use them by placing it in a central pool of funds for completion of on-going projects in the region; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

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 AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) : (a) Yes, Sir. The concerned Central Ministries/Departments were directed to allocate atleast 10% of their budget for specific programmes in the North Eastern States.

(b) The information is being collected and would be furnished.

(c) and (d) It has been decided to create a non-lapsable Central Pool of Resources for funding specific projects in North Eastern States and Sikkim. Projects for the development of these States would be identified in consultation with the State Governments and North Eastern Council.

Issue of Licences

1163. SHRI RAMCHANDRA VEERAPPA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of applications received for the issue of licences for Food Processing Industries during the last three years till date; and

(b) the total number of licences issued out of the applications received?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translisation]

Pending Projects of Gujarat

1164. SHRI JAYSINHJI CHAUHAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of projects received from Gujarat are awaiting approval of the Union Government;

(b) the reasons regarding the pendency of these projects so long; and

(c) the time by which these projects are likely to be approved?

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 AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI RAM NAIK) (a) to (c) The position is being reascertained and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Tungabhadra Reservoir

1165. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government had received a proposal from the Government of Karnataka for the construction of balancing reservoir to Tungabhadra reservoir to solve the shortage of water in some districts of the State:

(b) if so, the details thereof:

(c) whether the State Government have sought any Central assistance for the purpose;