

Haj Pilgrimage

5175. SHRI S.S. OWAISI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have received any memorandum from the Government of Andhra Pradesh regarding various issues of Haj Pilgrims from the Andhra Pradesh?

(b) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by the Government thereon so far; and

(c) the total number of Haj Pilgrims from Andhra Pradesh allowed during 1998?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) :
(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) A total of 1,966 pilgrims from Andhra Pradesh performed Haj through the Haj Committee during 1998; the number of pilgrims from Andhra Pradesh who went for Haj privately is not available.

Stall Work on UKP Stage-II

5176. SHRI H.G. RAMULU : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Working Group set up by the Planning Commission made a recommendation to stall work on UKP-II Stage being carried by the Karnataka Government;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Karnataka Government has accepted or rejected the above recommendation; 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) to (d) The project report of Upper Krishna Project (UKP) Stage-II is still under examination in the Central Water Commission for its techno-economic appraisal and, as such, the project has not so far been considered by the Advisory Committee on Irrigation, Flood Control and Multipurpose projects of the Ministry of Water Resources. Consequently, the project is yet to get investment clearance from the Planning Commission. Also, this project involves inter-state issues which are subjudice in the Supreme Court. However, the State Government proposed outlays for this project for the Ninth Five Year Plan and the Annual Plan 1997-98. Considering the present status (i.e. unapproved) of this

project, the Working Group setup by the Planning Commission did not recommend any financial outlay for this project during the year 1997-98. It nevertheless, recommended an outlay of Rs. 1921.00 crore for the Ninth Five Year Plan but subject to approval of the project and the decision of the Supreme Court.

Foreign Secretary Level Talks

5177. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether a Foreign Secretary level talk was held between India and Bangladesh recently; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) and (b) Foreign Secretary level talks were held between India and Bangladesh on 28-29 June 1998 in Dhaka. The talks covered bilateral relations as well as regional and international matters. Both sides expressed satisfaction over the continued close and friendly relations between the two countries. There was an emphasis on the need to accelerate economic cooperation in a constructive and mutually beneficial manner. Cooperation in other areas of bilateral interaction, including security matters, was also discussed. Both sides reiterated their commitment to working to develop SAARC as an effective forum for promoting greater regional cooperation.

[Translation]

Foreign Investment and Collaboration in Food Processing Sector

5178. SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY :
SHRI SURENDRA PRASAD YADAV
(JAHANABAD):

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of foreign investment and collaboration available in the country in the food processing sector at present, productwise and State-wise; and

(b) the impact of this investment/collaboration in the field of employment generation and the development of food processing industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) Since July, 1991 till March, 1998, foreign investment of Rs. 8756 crores have been approved in the various sectors of food processing. Sectorwise and Statewise details are in the attached statement I and II.

(b) The entry of foreign companies in the food processing sector is expected to help in better utilization