

29. Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, Shimla.
30. Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition, Patna.
31. National Power Training Institute, Faridabad.
32. Central Pollution Control Board, Delhi.
33. Indian Institute of Advanced Study, Shimla.
34. Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan, New Delhi.
35. Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti, New Delhi
36. Indian Council of Medical Research, New Delhi.
37. Film and Television Institute of India, Pune.
38. Satyajit Ray Film and Television Institute, Calcutta.

Passport Application

1145. SHRI NADENDLA BHASKARA RAO: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of passport applications received and the number of passports issued by Regional Passport Office, Hyderabad, during the last one year, and

(b) the steps being taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to expedite the issue of passports by this office.

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

(a) During 1998, a total number of 1,96,772 passport applications were received and 1,95,441 passports were issued by the Regional Passport Office, Hyderabad.

(b) The measures taken to expedite processing of passport applications include: computerisation of processing procedures, enhancing validity of passports to 20 years, provision for dispatch of passport by speed post, additional staff to clear the backlog of pending cases, etc.

Backward Areas of Kerala

1146. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received any proposal from the Kerala Government for the development of backward areas of Kerala during the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount allocated to Kerala during the above period; and

(d) the time by which the decision on the above project is likely to be taken?

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) No, Sir. Planning & Development of an area and allocation of funds for the purpose is primarily the responsibility of the concerned State Government. However, Central Government supplements the efforts of the State Governments in the development of backward regions through appropriate weightage for backwardness in the formula used for distribution of Normal Central Assistance amongst the States. Further, Special Central Assistance is allocated to various states, including Kerala, for Special Area Programmes such as Western Ghats Development Programme, Tribal Sub-Plan etc.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Water Management Programme

1147. SHRI T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:
SHRIMATI LAKSHMI CHIDABAKA.

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh has urged the Union Government to initiate various schemes with more peoples participation for the better utilisation of water resources for irrigation purpose;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government have decided to provide technical assistance to the farmers once the requirements were identified;

(d) if so, whether low cost water management technique was yielding good results; and

(e) the extent to which the Union Government have agreed to provide assistance and help to the State Government in the State?

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

(b) Does not arise;

(c) Union Government provides technical assistance to farmers through training, conferences and workshops;

(d) Application of water at right time and space with proper methods and adequate quantity in an integrated manner with surface and ground water are the low cost technologies of efficient water management. These are used by farmers at many places with good results; and

(e) Under the Centrally Sponsored Command Area Development Programme Ministry of Water Resources, provides Central assistance to the States as one time functional grant @ Rs. 500.00 per hectare (to be shared @ Rs. 225.00 per ha. by Centre, Rs. 225.00 per ha. by State and Rs. 50.00 per ha. by the farmers) to encourage farmers' participation in the irrigation water management. Central assistance is also provided to States for creation of awareness among farmers through various activities.

Minor Irrigation Projects

1148. SHRI SAMAR CHOUDHURY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a decision was taken for extending the Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) for minor irrigation projects during finalisation of Annual Plan of Tripura; and

(b) 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) and (b) Under the existing Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP) guidelines, the Major, Medium Irrigation and Multi purpose projects fulfilling the eligibility criteria are eligible for Central Loan Assistance. While finalising the Scheme of Financing of the Annual Plan 1998-99 of Tripura an amount of Rs. 40 crore was indicated for

AIBP (including Minor Irrigation Schemes) subject to sanction of schemes and utilisation by the State. The inclusion of Minor Irrigation Schemes under AIBP funding in respect of North-Eastern States and Hilly States of Himachal Pradesh and Jammu and Kashmir as well as drought prone area earlier known as KBK (Koraput, Bolangir and Kalahandi) Districts of Orissa is currently under consideration of the Government.

Ground Water

1149. SHRI NRIPEN GOSWAMI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Ground Water Board has launched a scheme, "Studies in Recharge of Ground Water" in the country particularly in the State of Assam;

(b) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(c) whether any improvement in increasing ground water in the States has been noticed after the implementation of the scheme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) A scheme for "studies in Recharge of Ground Water" has been launched in certain states of the country, which does not include Assam.

(b) The Central Ground Water Board had started a Central Sector Scheme on Pilot basis in 1994-95 for studies in artificial recharge of ground water in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal, NCT of Delhi and Union Territory of Chandigarh. The studies were completed in 1997-98 at a total cost of Rs. 3.297 crores. State-wise and Year-wise break up of the amount spent on these studies is shown in the attached statement. Based on the results of these studies, the Government have recently decided to extend this scheme for studies in artificial recharge of ground water to some more areas of the States of Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat, Haryana, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Uttar Pradesh at an estimated Cost of Rs. 25 crore during the Ninth Five Year Plan.

(c) and (d) The studies carried out by the Central Ground Water Board have shown improvement in the ground water levels ranging from 2 to 7 metres benefiting an area of 15 to 200 ha. in Amravati and Jalgaon districts