

parallel religious courts are functioning in some minority dominated areas of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to check the functioning of such courts?

THE MINISTER OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. M. THAMBI DURAI) : (a) to (c) The information is being collected from the State Governments and will be laid on the Table of the House.

#### UN Aid for Primary Education

1292. SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the UN agencies have lately granted aid worth \$ 20 million to India to help, strengthen and promote its primary education effort especially the enrolment of girl students;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the manner in which this aid is likely to be utilised?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) and (b) Government of India and five UN Agencies viz. UNDP, UNICEF, UNESCO, UNIFPA and ILO have signed an agreement on 7 August, 1998 for programme support of US \$ 20 million to on-going efforts of the Government towards Universalisation of Elementary Education. The objectives of the programme include promotion of primary education for girls and other marginalised population groups.

(c) The programme envisages development of community-based school management strategies and improving performance of teachers in the use of interactive, child-centred and gender sensitive methods of teaching.

#### Inland Water Transit and Trade between India and Bangladesh

1293. SHRI P.R. KYNDIAH : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the protocol on Inland Water Transit and Trade between India and Bangladesh is still in force;

(b) if so, whether the Central Inland Water Transport Corporation has been operating cargo

services between Calcutta and Assam via Bangladesh;

(c) the present status of the proposal to explore an alternative to the International Steamer Route in Sunderbans used by cargo vessels plying between Calcutta and Assam/Bangladesh;

(d) whether studies/surveys have been ordered in this regard; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) M/s. Central Inland Water Transport Corporation Limited are operating cargo services between Calcutta and Bangladesh as well as Calcutta and Assam via Bangladesh.

(c) to (e) The alternate route was suggested by the Govt. of West Bengal. The reconnaissance survey of the alternate route was conducted during December, 1997 and this route was found to be 42 km. longer. The prime operator, CIWTC has also insisted for retaining the original route as the same was in operation for more than 125 years. The case was brought to the notice of the State Govt. during October, 1998. Accordingly, a revised proposal for retaining the original International Steamer Route for declaration as National Waterway is being submitted to State Govt. Simultaneously tenders have been invited by Inland Waterways Authority of India for carrying out detailed hydrographic survey of main and alternate routes. The finalisation of tenders is in process.

#### Pollution in Mahanadi

1294. SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Pollution Control Board has made any study to find out the water quality of the river Mahanadi which is considered highly polluted;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by both the Union Government and State Government to purify the water of Mahanadi and its main tributary?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. According to a survey done by the Central Pollution Control Board, river Mahanadi is polluted. The present water quality of the river is of Category 'D' (fit for propagation of wild

life & fisheries) as against that of the desired Category 'C' (drinking water source with conventional treatment followed by disinfection).

(c) A pollution abatement scheme for river Mahanadi and its tributary at Cutack has been approved by Government at an estimated cost of Rs. 10.59 crore.

[Translation]

#### More Funds to Universities

1295. SHRI RAMSHAKAL : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the funds allocated to different Universities during the last three years and till date are meagre in view of the increasing number of students in these Universities and their affiliated colleges;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to provide more funds to these universities;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) to (d) Central Universities are established by acts of Parliament and their maintenance and development expenditure is met by the Central Government through UGC. State Universities are set up by the Acts of State Legislatures and their maintenance and development expenditure is met by the respective State Governments. UGC provides only development grants to the eligible State Universities and Colleges, as per the prescribed norms, and that too, only for a part of their requirements. It is primarily the responsibility of the State Governments/agencies concerned to provide reasonable level of Plan and Non-Plan grants to the Universities/Colleges established by them. The grants provided by the Government to UGC for disbursement to the eligible universities and colleges have been steadily increasing over the years. The Government provided an amount of Rs. 921.24 crores as against a sum of Rs. 576.00 crores released in the 7th Plan.

[English]

#### Science Exhibition

1296. SHRI SURESH WARPUDKAR : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether his ministry had organised an exhibition viz. "India's Scientific Vision - Agrasar" in Delhi recently;

(b) If so, the approximate number of persons/students who visited the exhibition;

(c) the total expenditure incurred on it; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to organise such exhibitions in other parts of the country including the proposed locations thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) About five lakhs

(c) About Rs. 68 Lakhs.

(d) The particular exhibition "Agrasar" was specifically developed in connection with the celebrations of 50 years of country's independence. Part of this exhibition would be made use of in other parts of the country, especially in exhibitions organised by the department of Science & Technology in the coming months. The first such occasion will be during the Indian Science Congress Session at Chennai in early January, 1999.

#### Cochin Ship Building Yard

1297. SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Cochin Ship Building Yard is earning profits for the last three years;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of ship built at this shipyard during the said period;

(d) whether this Yard has secured any order for building new ships recently; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. During the last three years Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL) have earned the following net profits :

Year	Rs. in crores
1995-96	18.46
1996-97	12.56
1997-98	31.72