

special thrust on rural population :

(i) Mahatma Gandhi Gramoday Vishwavidyala, Chittrakoot (M.P.).

(ii) Gandhigram Rural Institute, Tamil Nadu (Deemed to be University). 13 Universities are located in predominantly tribal areas.

(f) None.

### Primary Schools

1288. SHRI AJOY MUKHOPADHYAY : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of primary schools and teachers needed to cope with the rise in population in the country;

(b) the target fixed in this regard during the Eighth Five Year Plan and the achievements made thereunder; and

(c) the target fixed for the Ninth Plan in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) to (c) The National Policy on Education 1986 and its Programme of Action as modified in 1992 provided that State Governments will ensure that all habitation with a population of 300 (200 in the case of tribal, hilly and desert areas) will be provided a primary school. Targets are not fixed on the basis of rise in population.

[Translation]

### Condition of National Highway-7 between Mangavan and Hanumana

1289. SHRI CHANDRAMANI TRIPATHI : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the road between Mangavan and Hanumana on National Highway No. 7 is totally damaged and is no more motorable;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the details of the proposal formulated for its reconstruction; and

(d) the details of funds allocated for the repair of the said segment of the road?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) Fund for repair and maintenance are allocated for the entire National Highway Net-work in the state and not segment wise.

[English]

### Hydro Electric Project in Kerala

1290. SHRI VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN : Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether any Hydro Electric Project in Kerala is pending with the Government for sanction; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the total hydro power generation likely to be generated from the said project?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.R. KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) and (b) Adirapally Hydro-electric Project (2 x 80 MW) and Puyankutty Stage-I Hydro-electric Project (2 x 120 MW) have been accorded techno-economic clearance by Central Electricity Authority (CEA). However, these projects are awaiting investment approval and forest clearance respectively. In addition, the following projects have been returned by CEA to the State Government/Project authorities for re-submission after attending to the observations.

S. No.	Name of the Project	Likely Annual Energy Generation (Gwh)
1.	Kerala Bhavani (3 x 50 MW)	420
2.	Mananthwady MPP (4 x 60 MW)	817
3.	Pambar (2 x 15 MW)	168
4.	Kuttiyadi Augmentation (2 x 50 MW)	213
5.	Pandiar Punnappuzha (2 x 35 MW)	262
6.	Barapole (2x3 + 2x1.5 MW)	26
7.	Pullivasal Rehabilitation (3 x 20 MW)	279
8.	Karapara - Kuriarkutty MPP (2 x 12 + 3x20 MW)	240

### Religious Courts

1291. SHRI ANNASHEB M.K. PATIL :  
DR. ULHAS VASUDEO PATIL :

Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that

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