

noted; I think we will go through it and we will advise the State Government to take adequate action.

SHRI RADHIKA RANJAN PRAMANIK: Will the hon. Minister be pleased to state what urgent steps the Government will take in future so that such type of erosions can be checked in time to avoid such devastation of the poor people?

SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA: We are informed that the State Government has formulated one scheme and that scheme includes this Ghoramara Island also. As soon as my Ministry receives it, we will do the needful in the matter.

MR. SPEAKER: Shri K.S. Rao.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: What is the connection with Ghoramara Island?

SHRI SAMBASIVA RAO, KAVURI: I have got some island in my own State.

MR. SPEAKER: You address the Chair.

SHRI SAMBASIVA RAO KAVURI: There is an island near the sea coast in my District about which I had informed the hon. Minister earlier. The hon. Minister said that it was a State subject and that the Government of India had nothing to do with erosion in the sea. I want to get a clarification about this.

Secondly, I had referred to a similar matter about erosion of land in my district where land costing about a lakh of rupees per acre, which is giving very good yield, is also getting eroded. About 500 acres of land has already eroded. When I referred this matter to the Ministry, they sent a committee also there to find out the erosion and to suggest some measures. I had received the reply earlier from the Government of India, Ministry of Water Resources. So, I wish to have a clarification from the hon. Minister whether he sticks to his stand that erosion of land into the sea is a matter for the State Government to deal with, or the Government

of India has got anything to do with it.

Are you satisfied now, Mr. Indrajit Gupta?

SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA: Sir, let me submit that this Question is limited to the Ghoramara Island.

SHRI SAMBASIVA RAO, KAVURI: I have asked about the policy.

SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA: Let me finish. May I request the hon. Member to give me a separate notice for this? If a notice is issued, we will certainly get all the information regarding that. The hon. Member has mentioned about the sea coast of Andhra Pradesh. I will look into it.

MR. SPEAKER: Next Question No. 43. Shri Indrajit Gupta.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Qn. 43. May I, through you, request the hon. Minister that he may reply to question No. 47 also because the subject of both the Questions is the same. It may be convenient for him to reply to both the Questions together.

MR. SPEAKER: They may be clubbed together.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA): I think the hon. Member has to put the Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Is Shri Surya Narayan Singh here? Yes, he is there. He can put the question.

SHRI SURYA NARAYAN SINGH: Q. No. 47.

Implementation of Narmada valley Project

*43. **SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA:** Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Govern-

ment has been drawn to the wide-spread protest against the implementation of Narmada Valley Project; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA): (a) and (b). There have been some protests against the construction of the Sardar Sarovar Project and the Narmada Sagar Project, doubting their economic viability and expressing concern about the environmental aspects of the projects in general and particularly about the displacement of population and the submergence of the forest areas involved. These issues have already been gone into before approving the projects. In addition, two sub-groups of the Narmada Central Authority—one headed by the Union Secretary (Environment and Forests) one other by the Union Secretary (Welfare) have been entrusted with the task of ensuring the implementation of the appropriate measures in regard to the environmental safeguards including compensatory afforestation and satisfactory resettlement of the oustees.

Viability of Narmada Valley Project

*47. SHRI SURYA NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a study conducted by the Indian National Trust for Arts and Cultural Heritage (INTACH) has found that the Narmada Valley Project is not financially viable; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA): (a) and (b). The study sponsored by INTACH considers that the irrigation benefits, as planned, are not likely to be realised and the cost of the project, inclusive of catchment area treat-

ment, will be high and hence, the Sardar Sarovar and Narmada Sagar projects are not viable.

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my purpose in tabling this question was to obtain from the hon. Minister some official clarification on the floor of the House, because it is a new Government now, regarding the controversial aspect of Narmada River Project. That it has aroused a big controversy cannot be doubted. And that it has received sufficient press publicity and publicity in the other media also. This is a project which is the largest single River Valley Project taken up in our country and it is a composite project which comprises some 30 major dams, 135 medium dams and 3,000 minor dams, all within one project spanning over to Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat and Maharashtra. Now, Sir, obviously this project is meant to bring certain benefits to the areas which are to be covered mainly with regard to irrigation facilities, generation of electricity and supply of drinking water. It is very important, no doubt about it. But there is other aspect, which now-a-days has become a top priority matter not only in our country but throughout the world, and that is the question of the environment, protecting the environment. The former Prime Minister had tried to give the impression that his Government was very much concerned with the question of protecting the environment and he had also suggested the launching of a global fund in order to see that the environment is not damaged. In the meantime, this project was approved and there has been a storm of protests from a large number of people, all of whom cannot be considered ignorant people; they include some very well known environmentalists such as Baba Amte, Mr. Sunderlal Bahuguna and so many other organisations which have been launching big agitation, hunger strikes and all that against this project. So, there are two aspects to it. One is that naturally the people who are living in the areas concerned are expecting that they will get some benefits by way of drinking water, irrigation and electricity. Here now two contradictory replies have been given. The reply to Q. No. 47 referring