

napped the daughter of the Union Home Minister;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take to deal firmly with the JKLF activities?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MUFTI MOHAMMED SAYEED): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. There has been marked increase in the activities of JKLF from April, 1988. Their activists were reportedly involved in the kidnapping of Dr. Rubaiya Sayeed on December 8, 1989. These activities are centred around subversion, militancy and secessionist propaganda in general and in particular include forcing frequent hartals and blackout, attacks on Central and State police forces, explosions in public place, arson and looting of banks, burning of bridges, killing of political personalities and workers, destruction of public properties.

(c) The Central Government are alive to the situation. Discussions have been held with Chief Minister Jammu & Kashmir to restore authority of the Administration and peace and normalcy in the State. A Cabinet sub-Committee at the Centre has also been formed to look into the various issues on Jammu & Kashmir.

Construction of Bridge on Sheonath River in Madhya Pradesh

*77. **SHRI ARVIND NETAM:** Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the construction of the bridge on Sheonath river in Durg district of Madhya Pradesh has commenced; and

(b) if not the reasons for delay in starting the work?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANS-

PORT AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI K.P. UNNIKRISHNAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The composite project comprising of (i) a high level bridge across Sheonath river and (ii) road approaches forming bypass to Durg town on NH 6 is included in the Seventh Plan. Alignment for the bypass and the location of the new bridge have been approved. Estimate amounting to Rs. 76.37 lakhs for the acquisition of land has also been sanctioned in September, 1987 and the technical proposal has also been approved in March, 1989. Other steps like pre-qualification of contractors, preparation of detailed estimates etc. are required to be completed before commencement of the work.

[Translation]

Drought Conditions in Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh

*78. **SHRI RAJENDRA AGNIHOTRI:** Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the southern parts of Uttar Pradesh and northern parts of Madhya Pradesh are in the grip of severe drought;

(b) if so, whether these areas have been declared drought prone areas and if not, the reasons therefore; and

(c) the details of drought relief schemes launched to combat drought in these areas?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI DEVI LAL): (a) Due to inadequate rains during south-west monsoon period of 1989, some parts of the States of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh are reported to have been affected by drought. Twenty four districts in Uttar Pradesh and sixteen districts in Madhya