

Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction.

The Government will formulate policies in this regard on getting suggestions from the Core Group.

(d) Appropriate measures are already being taken to minimise the impact of disasters like cyclone and floods. However, based on the suggestion of the Core Group, formulation of area based action plans for management of different types of Natural disasters will be considered.

Declaration of West Coast Canal as National Waterway

*107. DR. A. K. PATEL:
SHRI SHANKERSINH
VAGHELA:

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Tamil Nadu have given their comments on the restoration of the old AVM Canal linking it upto Kovalam in Trivandrum;

(b) if so, the decision taken by the Union Government thereon;

(c) the progress made in the feasibility studies for declaring the West Coast Canal as a National Waterway; and

(d) the time by which the above projects are likely to be taken up and the estimated cost in each case?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES AND MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA): (a) The Government of Tamil Nadu have intimated in September, 1990 that they propose to investigate the feasibility of reviving the old AVM Canal.

(b) No decision of Central Government is called for at this stage.

(c) The feasibility studies on the

Kovalam-Badagara stretch of the West Coast Canal have been completed.

(d) The position regarding the old AVM Canal has been stated in answer to part (a) of the question. The cost of development of waterway between Kovalam and Badagara in West Coast Canal has been estimated by Inland Waterways Authority of India to be Rs. 410 crores. This stretch has not been declared as National Waterway and, therefore, the time by which the development work will be taken up cannot be indicated at present.

Meeting of World Tourism Organisation in Goa

*108. SHRI R. GUNDU RAO:
SHRI D. M. PUTTE GOWDA:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether a meeting of the World Tourism Organisation was held recently in Goa to discuss the problems connected with the growth of tourism in the world in general and India in particular;

(b) if so, the outcome of the deliberations of the meeting;

(c) whether the Government have worked out any strategy to give rural orientation to the growth of tourism especially when 1991 is to be observed as "Visit India Year"; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI USHA SINHA): (a) and (b). The World Tourism Organisation held the 39th Session of its Executive Council in Goa from 6-8 December, 1990.

In the meeting the members of the Executive Council deliberated upon the administrative, financial and technical programme of W.T.O.