

(b) The matter is under discussions among the State Governments concerned.

Late running of Kerala bound long distance express trains from Delhi

*441. SHRI K. MOHANDAS : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the long distance express trains going to Kerala from Delhi are usually running many hours late ;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ;

(c) whether his Ministry has launched any special drive to avoid the late running of trains particularly on long routes ; and

(d) if so, the result thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANSI LAL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d). Punctuality of these trains is being monitored at the Zonal and Divisional level. Two trains—Kerala Express and Himsagar Express—are being monitored by the Railway Board as well, and instructions have been given to improve the punctuality performance of these trains further.

[Translation]

Conversion of bridge into Rail-cum-Road bridge on Saryu River

*442. SHRI JITENDRA SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the bridge on Saryu river near Manjhi Railway Station (North Eastern Railway) which connects Uttar Pradesh and Bihar and on which a lot of economic development of Western Bihar

and Eastern Uttar Pradesh depends, is available only for rail traffic ;

(b) if so, whether it is proposed to convert this bridge into a rail-cum-road bridge ; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANSI LAL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The Railways have not received any such proposal from Uttar Pradesh Government who will have to bear the cost, if found technically feasible.

[English]

Panar River Scheme

*443. SHRI PRAKASH CHANDRA : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the work on Panar River Scheme has since been completed ; and

(b) if so, when and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) and (b). No scheme on Panar River, as such, has been received from the Government of Bihar. However, a scheme known as "Parman Flood Control Scheme" is under consideration of the State Government. Panar river is a tributary of this river system.

Geothermal resources

*444. KUMARI PUSHPA DEVI : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the State-wise geothermal resources data have been collected ;

(b) if so, the names of the States where geothermal resources are available ;

(c) whether the geothermal resources available in Madhya Pradesh have been properly tapped; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to exploit the hot water available at Tattapani in Sarguja district and also found at other places ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) Yes, Sir. Collection of data and its updating is a continuous process.

(b) Hot springs have been found in Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal, Bihar, Maharashtra, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan and Haryana.

(c) Investigations are in progress to assess the geothermal potential in promising areas of Madhya Pradesh.

(d) Geological, Geochemical, Geophysical studies have been carried out and exploratory drilling is in progress at Tattapani in Sarguja District in Madhya Pradesh. The feasibility of utilising hot water is being studied.

Proposal to establish School Grants Commission

*446. SHRI K. RAMA CHANDRA REDDY : Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the conference of Southern State Education Ministers held in Hyderabad in the first week of July, 1985 recommended to the Union Government for establishment of a School Grants Commission ; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Union Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION (SHRI K. C. PANT) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Silting in Kosi barrage

*447. SHRI MAHABIR PRASAD YADAV : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Kosi barrage and Kosi Project as a whole are in danger of being damaged and destroyed on account of heavy silting ;

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take ;

(c) whether there is any permanent solution for the problem of silting ; and

(d) if so, the measures being taken to protect the two embankments of Kosi River ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) and (b). Though there has not been any damage to the main barrage, excessive silting both upstream and downstream has created some problem on the downstream side for which protective measures are being taken.

(c) Construction of dams in the upper reaches of the Kosi catchment along with soil conservation measures will help in reducing the siltation.

(d) Protective measures in the form of bank revetment and river training works, etc. to protect the Kosi embankments are being taken by the State Government.

Korapuzha Irrigation Project

*448. DR. K. G. ADIYODI : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Korapuzha Irrigation Project in Wynad District, Kerala was started with an estimated amount of Rs. 760 lakhs in 1977 with a time bound pro-