

hon. Member that he was driving in a drunken state, but he does not drink at all.

MR. SPEAKER: I have no outer intoxication, I am intoxicated by my inner soul.

DR. PRABHAT KUMAR MISHRA: When you say P. K., I am definitely normal then. But I get intoxicated by the reply of the hon. Minister.

MR. SPEAKER: What a correct assessment!

DR. PRABHAT KUMAR MISHRA: Through you, I would like to point out to the hon. Minister that this variety of seed which matures in 60 days is generally sown in the areas having less moisture and where the drought situation remains. I would like to know that after the paddy matures in 60 days, of what use the land will be to the farmer for full year if the land has no moisture and what the measures the farmer has to take to maintain his livelihood. Did the Government prepare any scheme for growing any other crop in that land so that despite drought situations the farmer may utilise the land and maintain his livelihood throughout the year.

SHRI BHAJAN LAL: There are some other varieties also. When there is a little moisture in the land the farmer can sow rapeseed and moong. These varieties also mature in 60 days.

SAARC Summit

*127. SHRIMATI MANORAMA SINGH:
SHRI S. D. SINGH:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the issue on which consensus was reached in the recently concluded SAARC Summit;

(b) the time by which action is proposed to be taken on the said issues; and

(c) the strategy adopted by the

member countries to check narcotics trade and the time by which it is likely to show results?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) (a) to (c): A statement is given below.

Statement

At the Fourth SAARC Summit held in Islamabad from 25-31 December, 1988, the Heads of State or Government discussed a wide range of subjects concerning cooperation among the member countries following which the following major decisions were taken, on the basis of unanimity:

(i) Education was included an area of cooperation and a Technical Committee set up to work out a programme of work in this area.

(ii) Specific projects for cooperation in the field of trade, manufactures and services, which are feasible immediately, are to be identified.

(iii) 1989 has been designated as the SAARC Year for Combating Drug Abuse and Drug Trafficking. Member countries are to launch a concerted campaign, as suited to the situation in their respective countries, to significantly augment their efforts to eliminate drug abuse and drug trafficking.

(iv) The possibility of a regional convention on Drug Control is to be explored.

(v) 1990 has been designated as the SAARC Year of the Girl Child.

(vi) South Asian Festivals are to be held from time to time. India will host the first such festival.

(vii) Supreme Court Judges and Members of Parliament of each member country will be able to travel to other member countries without visas.

(viii) A regional perspective plan called "SAARC 2000: A Basic Needs Perspective" is to be drawn up. Each member State is to set development targets for the turn of the century in core areas of interest such as food, clothing, shelter, education, primary health care, population planning and environmental protection. These would be consolidated into a regional perspective plan.

(ix) A proposal for the establishment of a Centre for Human Resource Development is to be considered.

(x) The comprehensive study on the environment and natural disasters undertaken by SAARC is to be completed in the shortest period of time. A joint study on the "Greenhouse Effect" and its impact on the region is to be undertaken.

(xi) The SAARC Audio Visual Exchange (SAVE) Programme is to emphasise social, economic and technical themes.

2. Action is already being taken with a view to implementing these decisions.

3. The strategy adopted to combat drug trafficking includes sharing of intelligence information, exchange of expertise and experience and introduction of more effective laws. The approach is worked out on an ongoing basis, depending on the situation from time to time, by the SAARC Technical Committee on the Prevention of Drug Trafficking and Drug Abuse.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI MANORAMA SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to know from the hon. Minister the new areas in which Technical Committees have been set up by SAARC?

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH: One Technical Committee has been constituted in the field of education with Bangladesh as the Chairman. Besides that, one group has been formed for Trade which will be meeting on the 20th and 21st of this month in Colombo. There is already a Committee to deal with the trafficking in drugs and it will be meeting in the month of April in Islamabad. Apart from these committees, there is another committee which will be meeting in May in Maldives. Environmental studies have been undertaken and there will be a meeting of the committee in this regard as well.

SHRIMATI MANORAMA SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my next supplementary relates to the natural calamities faced by the SAARC countries so far, like the floods in Bangladesh and the drought situation faced by our country. In this connection, I want to know as to what has been the role of the South Asian Food Security Reserve in this regard?

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH: The maximum share of contributions in this Reserve has been made by India. So far as I remember, our contribution has been to the extent of 10 lakh tonnes. Certain other countries have also contributed to the Reserve.

SHRI RAMSWAROOP RAM: Mr. Speaker, Sir, as per the statement of the hon. Minister, a Technical Committee of the SAARC countries has been set up in the area of education. In this connection, I want to know whether any agreement has been entered into to enable the students of the member countries to undertake higher studies or research in any of the country which is a member of SAARC. If yes, then what facilities have been provided to these students? At the same time I would also like to know whether there has been any deliberations regarding the improvements to be effected in the field of tourism.

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH: All these points have been discussed. But as regards the question about the students, I want to inform that we have not reached that stage so far. But in case any student is interested in going to another SAARC country for education or research, his application will definitely be considered and efforts will be made to render all possible assistance to him.

[English]

SHRI THAMPAN THOMAS: Sir, I would like to know whether the Minister is aware that the National Trade Union Centres in the SAARC countries assembled in Colombo twice and formed a SAARC Trade Union Council and they have represented to the various countries from SAARC to recognise them as SAARC TUCs and to have discussions on matters of mutual interest relating to legislations on trade unions and other matters relating to the working class and also to see whether they are as per the standard of the International Labour Organisation. So, I would like to know whether the hon. Minister is aware of it and whether any discussion on these lines has been held in the recent Islamabad Conference.

SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH: Sir, I would like to have some notice for this. I really do not have the information readily available. But may I inform the House that there is a scheme for SAARC Chairs, Fellowships and Scholarships which is to start this year.

Assistance to Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam

*129. **SHRI VAKKOM PURUSHOTHAMAN:** Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Mahatma Gandhi University in Kottayam has been declared fit by the University Grants Commission to receive assistance from Centre;

(b) the details of requests for grants received from the University for different projects;

(c) the grants so far sanctioned to the University and projects for which sanctioned with amount earmarked for each; and

(d) the details of further assistance to be given to the University during the remaining part of the Seventh Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L. P. SHAHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). The details of the grants for different projects requested for by the University, grants approved and released so far and the balance grants to be released upto the end of the 7th Plan, are given in the statement below.

Statement

(Rs. in lakhs)

Projects for which grant required	Amount of grant requested	Grant approved by UGC	Grant released so far	Grant still to be released
DEVELOPMENT GRANT				
1. Books & Journals	44.50	20.00	20.00	—
2. Equipment	103.00	28.00	28.00	—
3. Buildings	605.00	22.00	—	22.00
4. Staff	40.00	5.00	—	5.00