

tell her that in a year 1986-87, there were recommendations for 6 places in Madhya Pradesh and for the year 1987-88, more recommendations have also been received. If she wants to know the names of the places, I shall tell her later.

PROF. CHANDRA BHANU DEVI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to when a Navodaya Vidyalaya is likely to be started in Begusarai and why there is delay in starting it?

[English]

SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: I want to ask a question.. (*Interruptions*)

MR. SPEAKER: Nothing doing. No please. I am not going to be bamboozled in this way.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to tell the hon. Member that sanction has been accorded for Begusarai and it will start functioning by the next session.

[English]

Diverslon of Flood Water of North India to South India

*251. SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government have got any proposals to make use of flood waters of North India by diverting it to drought affected areas of South India; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY: This

shows the negative attitude of the Government towards drought-affected States of South India. All the South Indian States are now ruled by the Opposition Parties and that is why the hon. Minister is always in a negative mood... (*Interruptions*)

During the tenure of Late Dr. K.L. Rao, there was a proposal for linking Ganga and Cauvery and also inter-linking of all the rivers. I want to know whether that proposal still exists or not. I would like to have a categorical answer.

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND: Sir, may I remove the unreasonable misunderstanding in the mind of the hon. member who thinks that I am always negative in the case of the opposition-ruled States. I myself come from the South, from Karnataka..... (*Interruptions*)

Naturally, I cannot be parochial. My interests cannot be regional. They will only be national.

Coming to the question that the hon. member has asked, the project envisaged by Dr. K.L. Rao was further studied by the Central Water Commission, and it was found that though it was technically feasible, economically it was not feasible as the cost was prohibitive.

SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY: Mr. Speaker Sir, you are a farmer and you must be aware that the fate of the South Indian farmers depends mostly on the inter-connection of the rivers. A lot of water is drained into the sea and it is in no way useful to the farmers of the country. Polavaram project which links Krishna and Godavari will give an excess of 80 TMC water to the drought affected areas in Rayalaseema. Will the hon. Minister consider this and sanctions the Polavaram Project? I also want to know whether he is going to take it up as a national project and not as a state project.

Secondly, how is he going to arrest the flow of excess flood waters? Has the Government of India any plans in this regard?

MR. SPEAKER: the Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[*English*]

Distribution of Iron and Steel

*249. SHRI ANIL BASU: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any law to govern the distribution of iron and steel in and outside the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, whether Government propose to introduce a bill to regulate distribution of iron and steel?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI M.L. FOTEDAR):

STATEMENT

(a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Provisions exist to regulate the distribution, possession and use of iron and steel inside the country under the Iron and Steel (Control) Order, 1956 notified under Section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. These provisions enable the Government to give necessary directives to the producers of iron and steel with a view to securing proper distribution; proper utilisation of iron and steel by the consumer is also enforceable under these provisions. Export of iron and steel from the country is governed by the Imports and Exports (Control) Act, 1947, and Exports (Control) Order, 1977 notified thereunder.

(c) Does not arise.

Report of Task Force on Salem Steel Plant

*252. SHRI Y.S. MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the updated DPR (Second Stage) for Salem Steel Plant prepared by the Centre for Engineering and Technology (CET) has not been considered viable;

(b) whether Government have set up a task force to examine alternative ways through which this steel plant can grow;

(c) if so, when the report of the task force is expected; and

(d) in case the report has already been received, what steps Government propose to take to put through the expansion plan of Salem Steel Plant Expeditiously?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI M.L. FOTEDAR): (a) Steel Authority of India Limited has considered the report and not found it viable.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d). Do not arise.

Financial Assistance to Vidyasagar University, Midnapore

*253. DR. SUDHIR ROY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Vidyasagar University, Midnapore, has received any financial assistance from the University Grants Commission;

(b) if so, the amount released to it so far; and

(c) if not, the reasons for withholding the financial assistance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (A) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.