

being protected by the Archaeological Survey of India because of paucity of funds as reported in newspapers; and

(b) the action taken to protect all monuments in Delhi neglected by Archaeological Survey of India?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHR S.R. BOMMALI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Under the Constitution of India, archaeology is a concurrent subject and responsibility to maintain and preserve monuments devolves on both the Centre and the States. The Archaeological Survey of India is responsible for the maintenance, conservation and preservation of 166 monuments in Delhi which have been notified as centrally protected monuments. The Department of Archaeology, Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi are maintaining and protecting 19 monuments in Delhi. They also propose to protect 100 monuments in addition. Besides several monuments and remains of archaeological interest are maintained by local bodies like DDA, MCD and NDMC.

[Translation]

Auranga Water Reservoir

2358. SHRI DHIRENDRA AGARWAL : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCE be pleased to state :

(a) the latest position of the Auranga water reservoir project of Bihar;

(b) the total amount spent thereon so far;

(c) the time by which the said project is likely to be completed; and

(d) the reasons for the delay in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) Auranga Project was cleared by Planning Commission in September, 1983 for Rs. 125.40 crores. The revised estimate of the project for Rs. 297.81 crores at 1987-88 prices was accepted by the Technical Advisory Committee subject to certain conditions. In the latest review meeting held on 7.10.96 in Central Water Commission the project authorities have agreed to update the estimates at the latest price levels alongwith compliance to outstanding issues including hydrological aspects.

(b) The anticipated expenditure upto 3/96 is Rs. 20.10 crores.

(c) and (d). The completion of the project depends upon the priority given by the State Government. The main reasons for delay in completion is inadequate funding by the State Government.

[English]

Sales Tax by Hindustan Shipyard Limited

2359. SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY :
SHRI UTTAMSINGH PAWAR :

Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the approximate amount of sales tax arrears as on March 31, 1996 in respect of Hindustan Shipyard Limited;

(b) whether the Andhra Pradesh Government was requested to write off the said arrears in view of financial position of the company; and

(c) if so, the reaction of the State Government in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) As on 31.3.96, the Sales Tax Department of Andhra Pradesh Government has raised a demand for Rs. 53 crores approximately. While Rs. 14 crores have been paid by the Hindustan Shipyard Limited under protest, a sum of Rs. 32 crores is covered under Stay Orders of the Andhra Pradesh High Court. For the balance amount of Rs. 7 crores, appeals are lying before the High Court/Tribunals/Appellate Authorities.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The State Government has stated that in the light of current ways and means position of the State Govt., it is not in a position to forego the sales tax dues. However, it has directed the Commercial Taxes Department to resolve the outstanding issues with Hindustan Shipyard Ltd., through reconciliations.

[Translation]

Advance Courses by Universities at their own Expenses

2360. DR. RAM LAKHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have given approval to all the universities in Madhya Pradesh for conducting advance courses at their own expenses;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the fee, donations for those courses are similar to the private educational institutions, as a result of which the students have been facing great difficulties in undergoing those courses; and

(d) if so, the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) to (d). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[English]

Vaidyanathan Committee

2361. SHRI SURESH PRABHU : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government are going to implement the recommendations of Vaidyanathan Committee on water;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) to (c). The Committee on Pricing of Irrigation Water was set up by the Planning Commission in October, 1991 under the Chairmanship of Dr. A. Vaidyanathan, former Member, Planning Commission to go into the various aspects of water pricing. The Committee submitted its report in September, 1992. The recommendations of the Vaidyanathan Committee were studied by a Group of Officers (GOO) set up by the Planning Commission in December, 1992 under the Chairmanship of Member Secretary, Planning Commission. The GOO in its report of December 1994 which broadly covers the totality of recommendations of the Vaidyanathan Committee suggested, inter-alia, recovery of annual operation and maintenance cost as basis of fixing irrigation water rates in phases, recovery of full costs from non-agricultural uses, modernisation and renovation of old irrigation systems; periodic revision of irrigation water rates; encouraging irrigation water management transfer to user farmers etc. The Planning Commission have accepted the report of the GOO. Irrigation being a State Subject, recommendations of the GOO alongwith the report of Vaidyanathan Committee have been sent to all the States for consideration and further action as deemed necessary.

National Sports Policy

2362. DR MAHADEEPAK SINGH SHAKYA :
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to formulate any new National Sports Policy to promote and encourage the sports in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any concrete steps have been taken by the Government so far to invite suggestions from the people for the formulation of new sports policy;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government have also issued directions to the concerned authorities to identify the sports priorities to be given under the said new sports policy; and

(f) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DHANUSHKODI ATHITHAN R.) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. There is a proposal to reformulate the existing National Sports Policy with a view to making it more need based.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir. Suggestions have been invited from the various State/UT Governments, National Sports Federations and other concerned agencies.

(e) and (f). Yes, Sir. The roles of various concerned agencies, such as Central Government, State/UT Governments, National Sports Bodies, etc. have been spelt out for focussing their attention on the prioritised sports disciplines.

[Translation]

Science Centres

2363. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACNDA' : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have established the Vigyan Mandirs (Science Centres) in the country;

(b) whether the Government propose to establish any Vigyan Mandirs in the Uttaranchal region of Uttar Pradesh; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S.R. BOMMALI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). In terms of the extant policy of the National Council of Science Museums, the Science Centre could be set up provided the concerned State Government provides a developed site and agrees to share the cost of construction.

No specific proposal for setting up of any Science Centre in Uttar Pradesh other than the existing Regional Science Centre at Lucknow has been received.