

*[Translation]***Basic Amenities for Primary Schools**

1748. SHRI HARIKEWAL PRASAD : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the number of primary schools running in the country at present;

(b) the number out of them having no building, no provision of drinking water and toilets;

(c) whether the Government would make arrangement for providing these basic facilities there; and

(d) if so, the time by which the same would be done?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI) : (a) and (b) As per 6th All India Educational Survey (AIES), 1993 conducted by NCERT, New Delhi, there were 5,70,455 Government/Local Body primary schools in the country. Out of these schools, 92,801 (16.27%) were without building 3,18,142 (55.77%) schools were without drinking water facility 5,08,530 (89.14%) schools were without toilet facilities.

(c) Construction of schools buildings, toilets and provision of drinking water facilities is the responsibility of the State Governments. However, the Department of Rural Employment and Poverty Alleviation, has worked out a formula for making funds available for construction of class-rooms under Operation Blackboard scheme. According to this formula, 48% of the funds for construction are provided by Department of Rural Employment and Poverty Alleviation, if State Governments contribute 40% non-JRY and 12% JRY States share. This has facilitated construction of 1.77 lakh class-rooms under Operation Blackboard so far.

Under internationally assisted basic education projects such as District Primary Education Project (DPEP) and Lok Jumbish Project, 24% of their budget has been earmarked for construction and repair of school buildings.

(d) Given the dimensions of the problem, it is difficult to make a reliable estimate of the time required to provide basic amenities in all primary schools in the country.

*[English]***Clearance to Irrigation Projects in Orissa**

1749. SHRI BIKRAM DEO KESHARI : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the major and minor irrigation projects in Orissa awaiting forest clearance under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for the last three years and

(b) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to clear the same at the earliest?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI BABU LAL MARANDI) : (a) During the last three years, 27 proposals for major, medium and minor irrigation projects have been received from Government of Orissa for approval under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. Out of those 27 proposals, approval in principle has been accorded in 14 cases, 10 are under process with the Central Government and 3 have been referred back to the State Government for furnishing essential details.

(b) As and when complete details in respect of a proposal are received from the State Government, expeditious action is taken by the Ministry for an early decision.

Setting up of AIR/T.V. tower at Sitamarhi, Bihar

1750. SHRI SITA RAM YADAV : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether no AIR/T.V. transmitter/station exists at Sitamarhi District in Bihar which is close to the Nepal Border; and

(b) if so, the time by which T.V. transmitter/AIR stations are likely to be set up there?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ) : (a) and (b) A Low Power TV Transmitter is already functioning at Sitamarhi district in Bihar since March, 1989. Though, there is no AIR Transmitter in Sitamarhi, the district is fully covered by 100 KW MW Transmitter at Patna.

Forest Land as Reserved Area

1751. SHRI BHERU LAL MEENA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state: