

(b) For development of Central State Farm, Aralam, the following proposals have been envisaged :

- (i) Irrigation project for basin and drip irrigation.
- (ii) Construction of check dams on the existing irrigation scheme.
- (iii) Construction of modern copra dryer including building, plant and machinery.
- (iv) Installation of fibre extraction unit.
- (v) Electricity expansion line from Block No. 11 to 13
- (vi) Construction of payments check post in Block No. 11 and 14.
- (vii) Renovation of existing residential and non-residential buildings.
- (viii) Construction of fruit processing unit, drying yard No. 5 and fisheries project in 4 hectare area.

(c) The allocation made for development of this farm during 1997-98 was as under :

		(Rs. in lakhs)
(i) Plantation	--	154.00
(ii) Irrigation/Drainage	--	15.00
(iii) Others	--	8.00

Relations with Afghanistan

40. SHRI NARESH PUGLIA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to initiate a thorough reassessment of the Indian policy towards Afghanistan;

(b) if so, whether continuance of Afghan conflict has adverse security implication for India;

(c) whether the trade and economic cooperation with countries in this region have also been affected; and

(d) if so, the steps taken to improve the relations with these countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) :
(a) to (d) Events in Afghanistan impinge on our national interests including our security concerns. The continuing civil conflict in that country has adversely affected on the peace, stability and economic and commercial development of the region of which India is a part.

Government is closely monitoring developments in Afghanistan and is in continuous touch with all the constituent groups of the Government of Afghanistan headed by President Burhanuddin Rabbani.

Foreign Policy

41. SHRI NADENDLA BHASKARA RAO : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether any change in foreign policy is contemplated with the coming into being of the new Government;

(b) whether the Government proposes to adhere to the basic premises of Non-alignment doctrine enunciated by Late Shri Jawaharlal Nehru; and

(c) if so, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE):
(a) The objectives of our foreign policy seek to preserve country's territorial integrity, security and national identity as a plural democratic and secular society ensuring socio-economic development of all the people with justice and equality. Independence of mind and autonomy of action as manifested in our abiding faith in the principle of Non-alignment has been the hallmark of our foreign policy as much with the first Indian Government headed by Late Shri Jawaharlal Nehru as with the present Government and no deviation is contemplated from these well articulated principles.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Mahakali Treaty

42. SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT 'BACHDA' : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether any agreement has been signed for construction of the Pancheshwar dam under the Mahakali Treaty between India and Nepal;

(b) whether the Nepal Government have raised some objections in the construction of this dam in the hilly regions of Uttar Pradesh; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE):
(a) No Sir. No separate Agreement has been signed for the construction of the Pancheshwar Dam under the Mahakali Treaty between India and Nepal. However, the Mahakali Treaty itself includes an agreement for the implementation of the Pancheshwar Multipurpose project in accordance with the Detailed Project Report which is being prepared.

(b) No Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

*[English]***National Institute of Hydrology, Roorkee**

43. SHRI PRABHUNATH SINGH : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the present status and objectives of National Institute of Hydrology, Roorkee;

(b) the total number of foreign trips undertaken by the scientists under different UNDP projects during the last 3 years; and

(c) the total expenditure incurred on these foreign trips?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) The National Institute of Hydrology, Roorkee was set up as a Society registered under the Registration of Societies Act, 1860. The Institute has been established in December 1978 under the administrative control of the Ministry of Water Resources with the objective to conduct studies and research in basic and applied hydrology and to collaborate with other national and foreign/international organisations in the field of hydrology.

(b) Under the UNDP Project "Developing Capabilities for Hydrological Studies". 26 scientists underwent fellowship training and 11 senior scientists/officers proceeded on study tour abroad during last three years (1995, 1996 and 1997).

(c) The total expenditure incurred on foreign trips during the last 3 years on the fellowship training and study tours is US\$ 3,05,104.44.

*[Translation]***Mahi Project**

44. SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the year in which the Headquarter of Mahi Project was set up in Madhya Pradesh and location thereof;

(b) the total amount spent of this project as on March 31, 1998;

(c) the number of districts of Madhya Pradesh likely to accrue benefits from this irrigation project;

(d) whether the work on this ongoing project has been suspended; and

(e) if so, the details of the delay being caused in completing this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) Mahi project was taken up for execution in 1979. The project is being executed

by Mahi Project Circle situated at Dhar district in Madhya Pradesh.

(b) An expenditure of about Rs. 42.99 crores have been incurred on the project upto March, 1998.

(c) Three districts of Madhya Pradesh are likely to derive benefits from this project.

(d) and (e) The project is being executed by the State Government according to their own priority.

*[English]***Sardar Sarover Project**

46. SHRI P.S. GADHAVI : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to declare Sardar Sarovar project as a National project;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any proposal from the Government of Gujarat and Members of Parliament has been received by the Union Government in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the decision taken by the Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) to (e) There have been requests from the Chief Minister of Gujarat and also from Members of Parliament for declaring Sardar Sarover Project as a "National Project". However, there is no decision of the Government to declare any project in Irrigation sector as "National Project."

National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas

47. SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPA) was launched ;

(b) if so, the details of the main objectives of the programme alongwith the funds allocated to each State under this programme during the last three years;

(c) whether the Government have reviewed the implementation of the programme; and