

SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA : We will look into it when the proposal comes from the State Government.

SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ : Hon Speaker, Sir, the National Capital Territory of Delhi is one of the States which have made complaints regarding declining level of ground water. As you know, Delhi is not only a city or a Union territory; it is the capital of the country which on the one hand is visited by foreign guests and on the other lakhs of people from different states every year. This is resulting in more consumption of water. Consequently the level of water is going down and the crisis of drinking water is deepening particularly in South Delhi from where I come, there are some areas where there is not a drop of drinking water available.

I would, therefore, like to know from the Minister whether he will formulate a scheme to increase the water level of Delhi on priority basis and allocate some funds for it?

SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA : Mr Speaker, Sir, there are two schemes for the Capital Delhi. Work on one scheme is going on in J.N.U. campus and on the another in I.I.T. campus. There is a scheme to contain water by constructing tank bund. There is no denying that the water level in Delhi is going down considerably. The consumption of water in Delhi has increased. The underground water in some areas beyond Mehrauli in South Delhi is being used for irrigation of agricultural land and for some other purposes. This is resulting in the declination of water level. This is under the consideration of the Government. Work on two schemes is going on to make enough water available to Delhi and another is proposed. The Government will try to take up more schemes, if necessary.

[English]

COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister through you about the position in Rajasthan. I come from Barmer constituency. A lot of money has been sanctioned from the Central Government for water supply. But then all the sources are drying up and most of the water is taken by tube wells. In the last three or four years the level of water has gone down with the result that a number of pipelines and tanks have been constructed; but there is no water available there. This year also, in Jaisalmer and Barmer areas, in almost 75 per cent of the areas it has dried up and there is famine. I have been touring that area in the last ten days. There has been floods in some parts of Rajasthan. But there is an acute shortage of water there.

I request the hon. Minister that he should depute his team of officials with some other equipment in the Divisions to dig more wells so that water is available. Only laying of pipelines and constructing other infrastructure will not suffice. In this connection I may inform that the Water from the Rajasthan Canal - the Indira Gandhi Canal - is brought to Jaisalmer and Barmer. I request that one or two Divisions should be

raised so that additional deep tube wells are dug so that there is no shortage of water.

[Translation]

SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member has just given suggestion and has not put a question. It is true that whenever water is explored, the water level goes down due to this. Water is mineral and its potential generally depends on the rains water and the quality of land. Rajasthan is facing such problem, and that is also in the knowledge of the Government, and the Government will send a team separately to examine it and a model bill will be presented for Rajasthan.

PROF. RITA VERMA : Thank you, hon. Speaker, Sir. I would like to know from the hon Minister that Vananchal is an area of South Bihar from where entire supply of coal is made. The hon. Minister had been himself a Minister of Coal and he has enough experience. Due to the coal mining the water level is continuously going down. I am very much surprised that there is no mention of Bihar in his reply.

I would like to know whether this sluggishness is on the part of the Central Government? Has not the State Government sent any proposal in this regard? I am not finding the name of Bihar in the reply whereas you are morally more responsible towards Bihar. Besides, Bihar supplies coal to the whole country for its industrial progress. This is resulting in the level of ground water going down. I would like to know whether the Central Government and the State Government have any knowledge about it? Have you got any concrete proposal on this point from the State Government? If so, what is your reaction on it?

SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA : Mr. Speaker, Sir the water beneath the coal mines is rendered unsuitable for drinking purpose. It is, therefore not proper to think to bring out the water from beneath the land. This is the job of State Government to make arrangement for drinking water for the people of that area.

PROF. RITA VERMA : Has not the State Government sent you any proposal?

SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA : When they cannot draw out the ground water, then why will they send the proposal? For the drinking water, a separate
...(Interruptions)

PROF. RITA VERMA : Hon. Minister, efforts can be made to preserve it. What are you replying?
...(Interruptions)

[English]

Outlay for National Highways

*345. SHRI A.C. JOS : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the total plan outlay approved for various States

including Kerala for development of National Highways during the Eighth Plan;

(b) the total amount released so far to the States; and

(c) whether there is any short-fall in the release of funds to the states for the above purpose; if so, the details and reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) and (b). Originally approved Eighth Plan outlay for development of National Highways in the country was Rs. 2460 crores. During the first four years, Rs. 2318.74 crores have been allocated to various States including Rs. 111.7 crores for Kerala.

(c) There is no shortfall with respect to outlay.

SHRI A.C. JOS : Sir, the National Highway 49 is known as Cochin-Madurai line. This is passing through very important places like Adimali which is a central place for the high range hill produces and Munar which is a very important hill station of South India. I understand that the money allotted, according to the Ministry, is Rs. two crore. May I ask the Minister whether he will be ready to allot more money for National Highway 49 which passes through two States in order to strengthen and broaden this line and when it can be completed?

SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN : Sir, the plan envisagement is one thing and the requirement being asked is another thing. Whatever the Finance Ministry is allotting, we are just disbursing it to various States. Therefore, I shall try to give some more money if there are enough funds.

SHRI A.C. JOS : Sir, the National Highway bypasses are there. I would like to know from the Minister whether the Trivandrum bypass and the Kollam bypass are being taken up for work? I would also like to know what are the major works for the National Highways in Kerala this year.

SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN : Sir, the following major works have been taken up in Kerala. Firstly, the construction of Trivandrum bypass phases one on NH 47 from kilometres 5.6 to 10.2 was sanctioned in March, 1996 for Rs. 12 crore. The prequalification of tenders is being finalised. Secondly, the construction of Kozhikode bypass phases one including Arapuzha Bridge was sanctioned for Rs. 17.31 crore in July, 1993. The revised estimate amounting to Rs. 25.55 crore based on the tender premium is under scrutiny. The revised estimate requires Expenditure Finance Committee's approval. Thirdly, there is a provision of Rs. six crore for construction of part length of Tellicherry-Mahi bypass for which land had already been acquired. The estimate will be sanctioned when received from the State PWD depending upon the availability of funds. Fourthly, regarding four-laning of Alwaye Sherthalai section of NH 47 in Kerala under ADB II loan assistance, the original estimate amounting to Rs.60.59 crore was

sanctioned by the Ministry in March, 1993. Subsequently, the revised estimate amounting to Rs.93.97 crore based on the tender rates was sanctioned.

[Translation]

SHRI TARA CHAND SAHU : Hon. Speaker, Sir I would like to know through you whether the Government is aware that the then Surface Minister Shri Rajesh Pilot had laid the foundation stone for the development of National Highway 6 from Durg to Raipur on 13th August 1987. Nine years have passed since then. Foundation stone was also laid for constructing a bridge on river Shivnath and for a bypass. Whether the Government is also aware that tenders had also been floated for it? When all these formalities have been completed, then why the work is held up and why not the tender had been opened.

[English]

SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN : Sir, I want a separate notice for the question.

[Translation]

SHRI TARA CHAND SAHU : Hon. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Surface Minister has laid the foundation stone. Whether the Government is not aware that foundation stone was laid there.

[English]

MR. SPEAKER : The Minister can ascertain the facts and inform the hon. Member.

SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN : Yes, Sir.

SHRI R. GNANAGURUSWAMY : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I want to know whether the laying of National Highway between Kanyakumari and Kochi is in progress. If not, what is the present position regarding the same?

MR. SPEAKER : I think a detailed answer has been given about Kerala. I am sorry. It is the longest ever answer given about Kerala.

SHRI S. BANGARAPPA : Mr. Speaker, Sir, There are two things that are to be considered here. One is the allotment of funds during each of the Five year plan periods and the other things is the total length of the National Highway sanctioned either during the course of the present Five Year Plan or the previous one. Every State wants more length of National Highways. For example, take the case of our own State of Karnataka. Not even an inch of road has been granted to our State as extra National Highway by the Central Government during the course of the last 15 years. That is the case in so many States in the whole country. Taking all these things into consideration and keeping in view the accidents that are occurring on the National Highways and also the traffic congestion etc., why should the Government not consider this as a big subject and accord sanction or more length of National Highways

and allot more funds during the present Five Year Plan period or the next one?

SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN : Sir, the suggestion of the hon. Member will be taken into consideration and we will take a decision.

[Translation]

SHRI VISHVESHWAR BHAGAT : Hon. Speaker. Sir, Madhya Pradesh is the heart of the country and pressure of the traffic is mounting there due to the increased movement from states all around. A scheme for the construction of National Highway in Madhya Pradesh has been forwarded. I would like to know whether the Hon Minister will consider it in the budget of this year?

[Translation]

National Sports Talent

*346. SHRI RAMASHRAYA PRASAD SINGH ·
SHRI RAMESHWAR PATIDAR

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

(a) the detailed salient features of the National sports talent competition scheme in the country formulated by the Union Government;

(b) the amount sanctioned by the Government under the scheme during the last three years;

(c) the details of progress made therein during the last three years State-wise; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to grow undiscovered sports talent for national/international competitions?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DHANUSHKODI ATHITHAN R.) : (a) to (d). A statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

STATEMENT

(a) The main features of National Sports Talent Competition Scheme are :-

- (i) To broadbase sports at grass root level and to bring sports consciousness among children of 8-12 age group for participation in sports;
- (ii) To identify the talented boys and girls genetically gifted with natural motor qualities and physical growth, and
- (iii) To impart scientific sports training to the selected children so as to achieve excellence in sports.

(b) The Government provided the following amount under the scheme during the last three years :-

(i) 1993-94	Rs. 499.69 lakhs*
(ii) 1994-95	Rs. 499.76 lakhs*
(iii) 1995-96	Rs. 310.00 lakhs

* (includes expenses on Army Boys Sports Companies)

(c) The scheme is implemented at present in 41 adopted schools located in various States/UTs. The number of students admitted under the scheme during the last three years is given below :-

(i) 1993-94	1241
(ii) 1994-95	1268
(iii) 1995-96	1362

A Statement I showing the numbers of student state wise is given in the annexure.

A number of children admitted under the Scheme have excelled at the National and International levels in Junior and Sub-Junior championships.

(d) To spot talent the Sports Authority of India has adopted a battery of tests, which is used for conducting selection trials at district, state and regional level. These children are nurtured in the adopted schools by providing scientific sports training so as to prepare them for national/international competition.

ANNEXURE

S.No.	Name of State	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Delhi	57	44	17
2.	Madhya Pradesh	48	46	49
3.	Rajasthan	31	24	35
4.	Uttar Pradesh	98	81	107
5.	Chandigarh	59	52	71
6.	Haryana	97	101	128
7.	Punjab	23	24	32
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	-	-	-
9.	Himachal Pradesh	6	6	-
10.	Andhra Pradesh	88	67	46
11.	Karnataka	39	44	39
12.	Tamil Nadu	64	41	37
13.	Kerala	55	27	16
14.	Goa	-	23	28
15.	Maharashtra	85	107	177
16.	Gujarat	23	13	36
17.	Bihar	48	126	126
18.	Orissa	42	42	42
19.	West Bengal	177	178	174
20.	Sikkim	30	27	27