

have given 'highest priority' to participatory Irrigation Management in Irrigation Management;

(b) if so, the steps being taken by the Government to expedite activities in Participatory Irrigation Management; and

(c) whether any special Central assistance to the States for rehabilitation to expedite Participatory Irrigation Management is being sanctioned?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) Yes, Sir. The Union Government have given priority to Participatory Irrigation Management.

(b) The following steps have been taken to encourage farmers participation in the management of irrigation :

Giving management subsidy to farmers' associations under Centrally sponsored Command Area Development Programme;

Holding National Conferences and sponsoring State level and Project level conferences on Participatory Irrigation Management with farmers' participation in the State and project level to create awareness;

Conducting training courses at National level for officers and at State level for officers and farmers;

Providing States with guidelines and assisting them in preparation of Manuals for formation of associations and introducing amendments in Irrigation Acts;

Advising State Governments to constitute High Level Working Groups to formulate policies and guidelines for constituting farmers' associations;

Setting up of a Working Group by Planning Commission on Participatory Irrigation Management for the IX-Plan.

(c) No, Sir.

Ground Water in West Bengal

2880. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that ground water in seven districts of West Bengal has been found to have four times more of the chemicals than the safe limit exposing more than a million and seriously affecting 2,00,000 people of the State;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to solve the drinking water problem of the people of the area?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) to (c). Yes, please. In April, 1996 there are 984 habitations spread over in 8 districts

of West Bengal reported to have arsenic content in the ground water with more than the permissible limit (0.05 mg/l).

The Government of West Bengal has prepared a perspective plan at a total cost of Rs. 750 crores indicating long term and short term measures to tackle arsenic contamination. The replacement of tubewells by deeper ones, construction of new piped water supply schemes and construction of Sanitary Protected Wells and Rain Water Harvesting Structures for immediate relief and establishment of surface water based Piped Water Supply Schemes, tubewell based new Piped Water Supply Schemes establishing new spot sources for solving the problem on a long term basis are some of the salient features of the Perspective Plan.

Linking of National Highway No. 31 and 34 in Bihar

2881. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a proposal for connecting National Highway No. 31 and National Highway No. 34 in Katihar district of Bihar;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a link road connecting NH-31 and NH-34 in Katihar district of Bihar was sanctioned in 1982 and all the preliminary works were done long before;

(c) if so, the reasons for this work could not be taken up and completed till now; and

(d) the present position of this project and the time by which it is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) and (b). The work for construction of major bridge over river Manananda including improvement of road in Parapur-Labha-Dilli-Dewanganj section a part of Katihar-Harishchandarpur road (linking NH 31-34) was approved by this Ministry in 1982 under the scheme of 'Central Loan Assistance' for State Roads of Inter State Importance.

(c) and (d). It is reported that technical problems in sinking of wells are hampering the progress of work and the work is spilling beyond the earlier target date of March 1995.

Two Lane into four Lane Road on N.H. 17

2882. SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to convert National Highway No. 17 between Mangalore-Udupi and Coondapur into four lane road;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Due to paucity of Funds.

Science Education in Schools

2883. SHRI SUDHIR GIRI : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether any States have not been allocated funds under the Centrally sponsored scheme for improvement of science education in schools; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA):

(a) All the States have been provided financial assistance under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme of 'Improvement of Science Education in Schools'.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

North Koel Nahar Project, Bihar

2884. SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR SINGH : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the 'North Koel Nahar Project' of Bihar is the biggest and most important irrigation project;

(b) whether irrigation of Palamu, Aurangabad, Gaya, Jehanabad, Navada and Munger districts depend on this project; and

(c) if so, the time by which the above said project is likely to be completed and the steps taken by the Government to improve the irrigation situation in these districts?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) North Koel Project is one of the major on-going irrigation projects in Bihar.

(b) This project will benefit Palamu, Aurangabad and Gaya Districts.

(c) Irrigation is a State subject. The projects are planned, funded and implemented by the State Government from their own resources. Completion of the project depends upon the priority given by the State Government.

[English]

Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas in J and K

2885. SHRI P. NAMGYAL : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas (JNV) functioning in J and K States;

(b) the number of posts of teaching and non-teaching staff are lying vacant in Leh and Kargil Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas;

(c) the pass percentage of students in the JNVs of Leh and Kargil separately for the years 1994-95 and 1995-96;

(d) whether the classes of 11th and 12th have not been started in Leh and Kargil JNVs so far; and

(e) if so, the reasons for non filling up of posts, low academic standard result and non starting of classes of 11th and 12th in Leh and Kargil JNVs so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA) : (a) 14 Navodaya Vidyalayas have been sanctioned in the State of Jammu and Kashmir.

(b) The number of teaching and non-teaching posts vacant in the Navodaya Vidyalayas of Leh and Kargil is as follows :

	Teaching	Non-Teaching
Leh	06	05
Kargil	07	01

(c) The pass percentage of students in Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas of Leh and Kargil for the years 1994-95 and 1995-96 is as under :

	Leh		Kargil	
	X	XII	X	XII
1994-95	51.0	17.7	77.8	*
1995-96	23.3	83.3	78.6	100

* No students of Kargil Vidyalaya appeared in Class XII Examination in 1994-95.

(d) Class XI and XII were started at Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, Leh but were discontinued. Class XI and XII have not been started at Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya, Kargil.

Students from both these Vidyalayas have shifted to other vidyalayas in the Region.

(e) The efforts made by the Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya's to fill up the vacant posts have not been completely successful as many of the staff members were reluctant to join because of inadequate infrastructural facilities and the extreme climatic conditions, especially during the Winter months, at Leh and Kargil. Students of plus 2 level are shifted from these schools to the schools in plains in order to ensure that their academic performance is not affected adversely.