

(a) whether Government have any proposal to take up the work of conversion of metre-gauge railway lines into broad-gauge ones between Cuddalore Port and Salem Town via Neyveli; and

(b) if not, the reasons thereof and by which time this work will be taken up?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Railways are facing severe constraint of resources and have heavy commitments on hand for Gauge Conversions.

Yeleru Reservoir Project

*258. SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Water Commission has received a report on the Yeleru Reservoir Project from the State Government;

(b) if so, when; and

(c) the reasons for delay in clearance by the Central Water Commission?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND): (a) to (c) The project report initially received in May, 1980 could not be cleared for want of clarifications on certain aspects such as hydrology and irrigation planning. A revised Phase-I project has been received in August, 1986 and it is now under examination.

National Cultural Festival in Delhi

*259. SHRI RAMASHRAY PRASAD SINGH:

SHRI UTTAM RATHOD:

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

(a) whether a National Festival on culture is being held in Delhi;

(b) if so, the broad outlines thereof and the expenditure involved in it;

(c) whether this programme would be celebrated every year in Delhi; and

(d) whether such festivals are also proposed to be held in different parts of the country?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The broad outlines of the National Cultural Festival which is being held from 8th November to 26th November are as follows:—

(i) The main thrust of the Festival is the involvement of the masses in the celebration of the Festival by providing an opportunity to them to see the rich and varied cultural heritage of the country. It will also enhance cross-cultural communication and inter-action by bringing together artistes from all over India.

(ii) Seven Mukhya Maidans in densely populated areas in Delhi are the venues for celebration of the Festival. The cultural troupes from each of the seven Zonal Cultural Centres set up in the country recently have been putting up performances at each of the seven Maidans for two days. These Centres have brought about 500 participants each and are holding exhibitions of their handicrafts, music, dance, theatre and organising workshops, group discussions etc. The other participating components are the schools and colleges.

(iii) Specific days have been allotted for special manifestation to be reflected in the programmes of all Zonal Camps as well as sites specially chosen for the occasion. 14th