

ous policy and programme initiatives. These include adoption of National Water Policy (1987), Command Area Development Programmes, preparation of National perspectives for transfer of water from surplus basins to water deficit areas, water management practices promoting efficient and economic use of water for various purposes, emphasis on water conservation through various methods including use of latest technologies and peoples' participation in management of water for diverse uses as well as launching of Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme since 1996-97 for expeditious completion of selected ongoing major and medium irrigation and multipurpose projects.

Vamsadhara Irrigation Project

1078. SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Water Commission is considering a proposal from Andhra Pradesh for the Vamsadhara Stage-II, Phase-I Irrigation Project;

(b) whether any additional information has been sought from the State Government; and

(c) if not, the reasons for delay in giving techno-economic clearance for this Irrigation Project by C.W.C.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Yes Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Outcome of Indo-Pak Talks on Tulbul Navigation Project

1079. SHRI RAGHAVJI: PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of the talks held recently between India and Pakistan on Tulbul Navigation Project; and

(b) whether differences between the two countries on this issue have been narrowed down, if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b). During discussions held on 5.11.1998 between India and Pakistan on Tulbul Navigation Project as part of the composite dialogue process, both sides exchanged views and took note of the previous discussions from October 1987 to August 1992 on technical and legal aspects related to the project. India drew Pakistan's attention to the understandings reached in 1991 at Secretary level discussions. Pakistan however, denied that any understanding was reached in the past in respect of this project. The Indian side informed Pakistan that the proposed project was designed to regulate the flow of waters from the Wular Lake for navigational purposes and it did not involve any consumptive use and was fully consistent with the provisions of the Indus Waters Treaty. It was also agreed that discussions on the project would continue during the next round of talks under composite dialogue process.

Search for Lost Saraswati River

1080. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government plan to have a project initiated to search for lost Saraswati river in the State of Rajasthan;

(b) if so, how and when Government plan to take up this initiative; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons for not doing so?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Ministry has initiated work for searching the palaeo drainage network in Western Rajasthan also referred to as the lost Saraswati River. The Central Ground Water Board has been entrusted with this responsibility during 1998-99. The Board

is collaborating with the Ground Water Department, Rajasthan, Bhaba Atomic Research Centre (BARC), Mumbai, Regional Remote Sensing Application Centre, Jodhpur and Physical Research Laboratory, Ahmedabad, for this purpose. The studies include remote sensing, geophysical survey, hydro-geological mapping, isotopic studies, test drilling as well as literature Survey.

(c) Question does not arise.

Technical Approval for Bakrol Project in Gujarat

1081. **SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT:** Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Bakrol Project was submitted to Government of India by Government of Gujarat for getting the technical approval clearance;

(b) if so, the details alongwith the date of its submission;

(c) whether the TAC has been given; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) According to the proposal received from Government of Gujarat in January 1995, Bakrol Irrigation Project with estimated cost of Rs. 23.86 crores, envisages annual irrigation of 4500 hectares in Sabarkantha District.

(c) & (d) The Union Government has not taken any decision due to non-compliance of the observations of Central Water Commission by the Government of Gujarat.

Fund for AIBP Scheme in Uttar Pradesh

1082. **SHRIMATI MALTI SHARMA:**
SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Central Government have released a sum of Rs. 67.00 crores to the State Government of U.P. during the year 1996-97 for six

projects under Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP);

(b) whether it is a fact that Central Government have allotted only Rs 43.50 crores instead of Rs. 67.00 crores for the purpose and remaining amount of Rs. 23.50 crores is pending with the Central Government; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and by when the balance amount of money would be released and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) to (c) The Central Loan Assistance (CLA) under AIBP is provided on year to year basis. During 1996-97 Government of U.P. was approved CLA of Rs. 67 crores for six projects of which only Rs. 43.50 crores could be released as the state submitted in time utilisation certificate in respect of only two projects for availing second instalment. Due to reduction in funds under AIBP at Revised Estimate state, the State could be released only part payment of second instalment even for these two projects.

Measures for Flood Control in Assam

1083. **SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH:** Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the measures taken up for the flood control in the North-Eastern States specially Brahmaputra river in Assam; and

(b) whether Government contemplate any plan to control the water from its river like that of the perennial Barak river whose resources is from Manipur and enters Assam to divert it to the State of Manipur to meet the State requirements?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINIS-