

(iv) Steps to prevent exploitation of Indian students by unscrupulous employers who underpay them and employ them beyond the maximum prescribed 20 hours a week.

6. A delegation of educational providers from Australia met Secretary, Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs on 6th July, 2009. Various measures to address the problems related to safety and security of Indian students were discussed in these meetings. It was decided to set up a Joint Working Group to recommend to the two Governments measures required to regulate the activities of Education Agents in India and design appropriate pre-departure orientation programmes.

7. The matter was also taken up with the Australian Minister for Immigration and Citizenship during his call on the Minister of Overseas Indian Affairs on 22nd July, 2009.

8. The High Commission of India in Canberra and Consulates General in Sydney and Melbourne will continue to extend all possible assistance. An advisory for students going for studies to Australia has been put on the website of this Ministry.

Work on Narmada Project

*478. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry is aware of the slow-speed of work on Narmada Project (SSY) in the State of Gujarat; and

(b) the details regarding height of the Dam as on 31 March, 2009 and of the water made available for irrigation and other purposes as on 31 March, 2009?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Sardar Sarovar Project (SSP) is an inter-State multipurpose water resources project on the river Narmada in Gujarat. The project envisages construction of Unit-I (Dam & Appurtenant works), Unit-II (Main Canal) and Unit-III (Hydro Power) works. Progress of the Unit-I works of SSP is given as under :-

The project authority started the construction works of main dam in April, 1987 and was programmed to be completed by the end of January, 1998 as per the Revised Implementation Schedule (RIS) of February, 1990.

However, the construction work on spillway blocks of the dam remained held up for long, due to litigation in the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India. In October, 2000 with the final verdict of the Hon'ble Court in favour of project, the spillway portion could be raised upto elevation level (EL) 110.64 metre by June, 2004, thereby making it possible to derive partial irrigation and power benefits from the Project.

Further permission to raise the height of dam in spillway portion from EL 110.64 metre to EL 121.92 metre as per approved design was accorded by Narmada Control Authority (NCA) on 8th March, 2006. After getting clearance from NCA, project authorities started the construction works on spillways portion of the dam in March, 2006 and achieved Elevation Level of 121.92 metre (crest level of spillway) in December, 2006, which is the present height of the dam as on 31.3.2009.

Water for irrigation and other purposes from Sardar Sarovar Project is being allocated by Sardar Sarovar Reservoir Regulation Committee (SSRRC) of Narmada Control Authority since March, 2007. On the basis of available live storages and requirements indicated by the Party States for irrigation and other purposes, SSRRC has allocated a total of 9850 Million Cubic Metre (MCM) of water since March, 2007 till March, 2009.

Special Allowances to Officers of NE Cadre

*479. SHRI LALHMING LIANA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether additional monetary incentive in the form of "Special Allowance for the officers belonging to the North East (NE) cadres of All India Services" is granted to the officers belonging to the NE cadres working in the North East Region (NER);

(b) if so, the reasons(s) for granting it only to the officers of the NE cadres working in the NER;

(c) whether Government proposes to give such benefit to All India Service officers of other State cadres and of organized Group 'A' services, who are posted or are on deputation to the NER;

(d) if so, the details thereof and by when; and

(e) if not the reasons(s) therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Special allowance to the officers belonging to the NE cadres of All India Services who are working in the North East region has been granted to help them tide over the difficult and challenging working environment faced by officers allotted to these State Cadres.

(c) and (d) No, Sir.

(e) With a view to attract and retain competent officers for service in the North East; a Special Duty Allowance is given, to officers of the All India Service belonging to other State Cadres and officers of other organized Group "A" services who are posted or working in the North East Region.

Agreement during the visit of US Secretary of State

*480.SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the topics on which bi-lateral agreements were signed between India and the United States of America when Secretary of State of the United States recently visited New Delhi; and

(b) the broad details in respect of each agreement?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR) : (a) and (b) Two Agreements - Technology Safeguards Agreements (Space) and an Indo-