

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-

US Science and Technology Endowment Fund and Board Agreement, were signed during the visit of the U.S. Secretary of State, Mrs. Hillary Clinton from 17-21 July, 2009.

The Technology Safeguards Agreement will permit the launch of civil or non-commercial satellites containing US components on Indian Space Launch Vehicles.

The S & T Agreement seeks to establish an India - U.S.A. Board and an Endowment for developing Joint Research and Development, Innovation, Entrepreneurial and Commercialization Activities in Science and Technology.

The Agreement will substantiate the aims and objectives of the India-U.S.A. Agreement on Science and Technology Cooperation signed in October, 2005.

The two sides also agreed to a formulation on End Use Monitoring (EUM) to be included in Letters of Offer and Acceptance for acquisition of defence articles and equipped to be acquired by the Government of India from the U.S. Government.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Generation of thorium based nuclear energy

3501.SHRI SHYAM LAL CHAKRABORTY : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Government has any plan of generating thorium based nuclear energy;
- (b) the total amount of thorium reserve in our country;
- (c) the concrete planning for extraction of thorium; and
- (d) the estimated time of extraction of thorium?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN) :

- (a) Yes, Sir.
- (b) India has 10.21 Million Tonnes of Monazite from which 9,18,900 Tonnes Thorium Oxide (ThO_2) can be obtained.
- (c) and (d) Extraction of Monazite as by-product from limenite mining is being done by M/s Indian Rare Earths Limited (IREL) in Kerala and Tamil Nadu; M/s Kerala Minerals and Metals Limited (KMML) in Kerala; and Orissa Sands Complex (OSCOM) in Orissa. Sufficient quantity of Thorium has been stockpiled for future use.

Survey of Himalayan Rivers

†3502.SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA :

SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI :

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that information has been received recently about meeting of icy peaks located at Gangotri and their melting is at satisfactory level;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.