

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRIMATI SHEILA KAUL): (a) and (b) There is no provision under which any State Government has to obtain permission from the University Grants Commission to establish a University. The Government of Andhra Pradesh, however, sought the views of the University Grants Commission in July, 1982 on a proposal to establish a Women's University in the State. The Commission informed the State Government in November, 1982 that they were not in favour of such a proposal. Subsequently on April 9, 1983, the Government of Andhra Pradesh again sought the views of the Government and the University Grants Commission on their proposal to promulgate an Ordinance to establish a Women's University. Before any views were communicated, the State Government had promulgated the Ordinance which came into effect from April 14, 1983.

Construction of Sethusamudram Canal

*200. SHRI M. KALYANA-SUNDARAM:

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY;

Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the present stage of the proposal to construct Sethusamudram Canal;

(b) whether the expert Committee on Sethusamudram Project has since submitted its report to Government, if so, what are the recommendations; and

(c) by when, a final decision is likely to be taken regarding this project?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI K. VIJAYA BHASKARA REDDY: (a) and (b) The Report of the Expert Committee set up to examine the economic viability of the Sethusamudram Canal Project has since been received by the Government. The Com-

mittee has observed that the economic viability of the Project is not amenable to exact quantisation since certain factors, relevant to the Project's assessment, are based on a number of probabilities. The cost of the Project has been estimated at Rs. 282 crores with reference to February 1983 prices. The Committee has also found that the Project might yield a return varying from 4.72 per cent to 11.93 per cent under different sets of assumptions. The Committee did not find it possible to quantify the indirect economic benefits to the country and the social benefits which the Project could confer. The internal rate of return with reference to the Project's estimated cost has been considered rather low. The Committee has recommended that the Project could be implemented in view of other considerations, and for making the Project financially and economically viable, concessions like treating the investment on the Project as a grant, etc. could be extended.

(c) The Report would be examined on merits and a decision will be taken in due course.

@1330. SHRI Shifting of Government Offices outside Delhi

KRISHNA NAND JOSHI: Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to shift outside Delhi some of their offices and departments under the Ministry of Home Affairs; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI MOHAMMAD USMAN ARIF): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Shifting of certain Central Government offices including those under the Ministry of Home Affairs to places outside Delhi, is under consideration. Details will be

@Previously, Unstarred Question No. 582, transferred from the 28th July 1983.