

(a) whether Saurashtra region of Gujarat has been granted special status to ensure accelerated development;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the role of the concerned State Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY):

(a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Funds to unique identification authority of India

2038. SHRI B.S. GNANADESIKAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has refused to allocate the required fund for the Unique Identification Scheme and allocated half of the fund against the requisition of Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI); and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY):

(a) and (b) No, Sir. The cost estimates for Phase-I and Phase-II of the programme comprising Rs.3170.01 crore spread over 5 years have been approved. The annual budget allocation for the programme for the Financial Year 2009-10 was Rs. 27.57 crore. The approved budget estimate for the Financial Year 2010-11 is Rs. 1900 crore. Budget for Phase-III programme will be brought before the Central Government in due course.

Natural resource Management

2039. SHRIMATI RATNA BAI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that natural resource management plays an important role in the livelihoods of the poor;