

Status of Kaladan Project

3242. SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) the State of progress of the Kaladan Project;
- (b) the deadline for the completion of the Project; and
- (c) whether progress made with regard to transit facilities through Bangladesh, following the Bangladesh Prime Minister's official visit to India in January, 2010, have rendered the Kaladan Project Redundant?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA): (a) and (b) The Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Facility envisages connectivity between Indian Ports on the eastern seaboard and Sittwe Port in Myanmar and then through riverine transport and by road to Mizoram. The Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project envisages a timeline of five years from the date of the signing of the agreement. The Framework Agreement and Protocols were signed in April, 2008. The Project is being implemented as per schedule.

(c) The Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project is being developed to provide a route for transport of goods to North-East India. The project is not linked to transit facilities provided through Bangladesh.

Objection by China for construction of roads on border

3243. SHRI N. BALAGANGA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that China objected to construction of roads on our side of the borders in the border States of the country;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of Government thereto;
- (c) whether Government has taken up this issue with the Chinese Government; and
- (d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI S.M. KRISHNA): (a) to (d) The civilian road construction project in Ladakh was being implemented under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (NREGA). Such construction in the proximity of the International Boundary (IB)/Line of Actual Control (LAC) cannot be undertaken without approvals from the Central Government. In the absence of such approvals, work on the NREGA road in Ladakh was halted.

Panchayat Yuva Khel aur Krida Abhiyan

3244. SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR: Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

- (a) the expenditure so far incurred on the Panchayat Yuva Khel aur Krida and the current

budget provision for the programme as well as the Eleventh Five Year Plan allocation to the scheme;

(b) the progress made towards attaining the goals and targets of the scheme;

(c) the expected date by which the scheme is likely to cover all Indian villages; and

(d) whether the Ministry plans to seek higher allocations for the scheme through the mid-term review of the Eleventh Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI PRATIK PRAKASHBAPU PATIL): (a) Eleventh Five Year Plan outlay for the 'Panchayat Yuva Krida aur Khel Abhiyan' (PYKKA) scheme is Rs. 1,500 crore. The scheme, which was introduced in 2008-09, is being implemented in 31 States/UTs. As on 31st July, 2010, expenditure on the scheme has been in the order of Rs. 350.63 crore. Year-wise allocation of budget and its utilization for the last two years (2008-09 and 2009-10) and upto 30th June, 2010 of the current financial year is given below:—

(Rs. in crore)

Sl. No.	Year	Budget allocation	Budget utilization		
			Infrastructure component	Competitions	Total
1.	2008-09	92.00	83.85	8.15	92.00
2.	2009-10	135.00	105.00	30.00	135.00
3.	2010-11	413.00	87.20	36.43	123.63
TOTAL:		640.00	276.05	74.58	350.63

*upto 31st July, 2010

(b) Around 31,814 village/block panchayats have been covered under the scheme; and 13,000 Kridashrees (community sports volunteer/coaches) have been trained. More than 22 lakh rural youth participated in the annual rural competitions held in 2009-10.

(c) The scheme envisages to cover all the village and block panchayats of the country in a phased manner over a period of 10 years.

(d) The current year budget allocation of Rs. 413 crore for the scheme was as per the requirement projected by Ministry.

Showcasing of Indian culture in foreign countries

3245. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government spends substantial amount of money every year to showcase Indian cultural richness in foreign countries;