

National and International importance in various States/UTs in consultation with them.

Lack of knowledge of guides

1296. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the authorised guides who conduct the tourists to various historical monuments in the country do not possess adequate knowledge and information relating to the monuments being visited and, reportedly, convey wrong or incorrect information to the visitors and the foreign tourists, in particular, prefer to depend on their own authentic books/literature, instead; and

(b) if so, the details of such complaints received, if any, and steps being taken to suitably brief and train the guides assigned to various monuments in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Tourist Guides are inducted through an intensive training programme and from time to time they attend Refresher Courses to upgrade their knowledge of tourist products.

Constitution of National Water Mission

†1297. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a decision with regard to constituting a National Water Mission has been taken in order to discuss and resolve all issues related to water;

(b) if so, by when the constitution of the Mission is likely to be completed; and

(c) by when the Mission is likely to start functioning?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Task force on floods

†1298. SHRI JAM JETHMALANI:

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Task Force with joint efforts of India and Nepal has been constituted to address the problem of floods in the country;

(b) if so, the names of the members of the Task Force; and

(c) by when the Task Force has been asked to submit its report?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV):

(a) Yes Sir. In the second meeting of the India - Nepal joint Committee on Water Resources (JCWR) held in October, 2004, it was *inter-alia* decided that a short term strategy identifying the vulnerable areas along various rivers should be jointly worked out on priority for which a Joint Committee was set up to identify the steps that could be taken by both sides to mitigate the devastation caused by the floods.

(b) The composition of the Joint Committee on the Indian side as finalised in the JCWR includes the following Members:

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| 1. Member, Ganga Flood Control Commission | Leader |
| 2. Representative, Water Resources Department,
Government of Uttar Pradesh | Member |
| 3. Representative, Water Resources Department,
Government of Bihar | Member |
| 4. Representative, Irrigation and Waterways
Department, West Bengal (North Bengal Flood
Control Commission) | Member |
| 5. Representative, Ministry of Water Resources,
Government of India | Member |
| 6. Director, Ganga Flood Control Commission | Member - Secretary |

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.