

operation of the concerned States and upon obtaining various mandatory clearances from Ministry/Departments of Central and State Governments including statutory clearances. The time-limit for the completion of individual link projects can be identified only after Detailed Project Reports are techno-economically approved. However, the Government has constituted a Consensus Group headed by the Chairman, Central Water Commission and Secretaries of Irrigation/Water Resource Departments of the concerned States for arriving at a consensus on various proposed links for sharing of the surplus water and preparation of DPR by NWDA. In addition, the issues on the inter-State links are also regularly discussed during the meeting of Governing Body and Society of the NWDA. The Special Committee for Inter-linking of Rivers (ILR), chaired by Hon'ble Union Minister of Water resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation is also reviewing the progress of river link proposals in consultation with the stakeholders for expediting these projects.

Popularising Thirukkural's messages

*280. SHRI TARUN VIJAY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the message of Thiruvalluvar have shaped Indian minds for the last many centuries but still his teachings through the great work of Thirukkural do not find any presence in the North India; and

(b) Government's view to popularise Thirukkural's messages in North India for greater cultural integration of the country benefitting the society?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): (a) and (b) The Government is aware that the messages of Shri Thiruvalluvar have shaped Indian mind for the last many centuries. The Sahitya Akademi under the Ministry of Culture has published an important monograph in 1979 on Shri Thiruvalluvar respecting him as one of the makers of Indian Literature. The book contains times and teaching of Shri Thiruvalluvar, and is a blueprint of evolution of universal man. This monograph was translated by Sahitya Akademi in many Indian languages like Hindi, Sindhi, English, Malayalam, Kannada and Telugu. A scholarly treatise on Thirukkural was given the Sahitya Akademi award in 1988, named as Vazhum Valluvam (Immortal Kural), thereafter it was translated in English for the benefit of non-Tamil readers. The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has incorporated messages of Shri Thiruvalluvar in the textbook of Communicative Sanskrit for Class X, published by them. A complete chapter is devoted to the teachings of Saint Thiruvalluvar from his great work Thirukkural and it is prescribed in all the schools offering Sanskrit across the country including

north India. In order to popularize Shri Thiruvalluvar's message for greater cultural integration of India, benefiting the society, the work of translation of Thirukkural, an ancient Tamil literature has been given importance by the Central Institute of Classical Tamil (CICT), Chennai an autonomous organization under this Ministry. A compendium of English translations by 18 different authors has also been compiled and published. Thirukkural has also been translated and published in Telugu, Kannada, Punjabi and Manipuri languages. It has also been translated to Gujarati. CICT has brought out Thirukkural in mobile applications in English. From January, 2015 essay competitions, seminars, debates, etc. based on the life and works of Shri Thiruvalluvar are proposed to be conducted in the educational institutions throughout the country by Department of School Education and Higher Education.

Wages under MGNREGA

*281. SHRI D. RAJA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a panel constituted by the Central Government has recommended that the wages under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) should be equal to or higher than the minimum wages in the States and the wages should be revised every year on the basis of Consumer Price Index (Rural); and

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's decision thereon?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHAUDHARY BIRENDER SINGH): (a) and (b) The Government appointed an expert Committee under the Chairmanship of Prof. S. Mahendra Dev to suggest the methodology for resetting the base rate and for suggesting a proper index for revising MGNREGA wage rates yearly. The Committee has recommended to adopt the existing MGNREGA wage rate as in 2014 or the Minimum Wage prescribed under the Minimum Wages Act whichever is higher – as the base rate for 2014. The Committee has also recommended adopting Consumer Price Index (Rural) for indexation of the wages instead of the Consumer Price Index (Agricultural Labour). The recommendations of the Committee are under examination at the Government level.

Budget for salary of teachers under SSA

†*282. DR. BHUSHAN LAL JANGDE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that salary of 36,025 teachers working under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) in Chhattisgarh has been cut from the budget;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.