

any financial assistance from the Central Government for expansion of the tea gardens in Kerala?

Shri Manubhai Shah: The State Government does not come into the picture. The Kerala planters are represented and they take advantage of the schemes—UPASI and the Kerala planters.

Bund on River Gandak

*768. **Shri Surendra Pal Singh:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that an approach was made by the Central Government on behalf of the State of U.P. to the Government of Nepal seeking latter's permission for the construction of a Bund by the State of U.P. to save a large area of Gorakhpur district from being flooded by the waters of the river Gandak; and

(b) if so, what were Nepal Government's reactions to this proposal?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs (Shrimati Lakshmi Menon): (a) Yes, Sir. The proposal for an eight-mile long bund—known as Nepal bund—was mooted in 1954. The scheme is now a part of the Gandak Project. The Government of Nepal were approached in April this year for permission for the construction of this bund.

(b) The Government of Nepal generally welcomed the proposal and gave permission for detailed survey of the bund area. They have instructed the District authorities to give such assistance and help as the Indian survey team may require in connection with their work.

Shri Surendra Pal Singh: May I know when will the construction work be taken up?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: The work will be taken up after the current flood season.

Pandit D. N. Tiwary: If this bund has become a part of the Gandak

Project what is the necessity for asking for fresh permission and fresh survey, especially when the Gandak scheme has been surveyed in detail?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: This special bund does not form part of our territory. It is within Nepal territory. Therefore, we have to get fresh permission of the Nepal Government. It also needs acquisition of land from Nepal Government.

श्री भक्त दर्शन : श्रीमन् गंडक बांध के निर्माण में पछले दिनों उत्तर प्रदेश के दो इंजीनियरों को नेपाल में गिरफ्तार कर लिया गया था। मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि क्या अब स्थिति में सुधार हुआ है और क्या ऐसी कोई अड़चन आने की आशंका नहीं है ?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: The hon. Member is not quite correct. They were not arrested. They were stopped from going in because they did not have proper identification papers.

Shri Sihanasan Singh: Government have stated that the Nepal Government have given permission for bunding. Was this permission given long before the flood arose or just now after the flood has arisen?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: The whole matter was placed before the experts' committee which met on April 9th and 10th this year. Now the proper survey will be made and according to the recommendations the work would be started.

Mr. Speaker: When was the permission given?

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: Very recently, after the King's visit to India

श्री विश्राम प्रसाद : मैं यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि इस बांध को बनाने में कितने दिन लगेंगे और कब तक ईस्टर्न डिस्ट्रिक्ट्स में आ रही बा को रोका जा सकेगा।

Shrimati Lakshmi Menon: I have pointed out that the work will be undertaken after the current flood season.

Trade with West Asian Countries

+
*770. { **Shri Yashpal Singh:**
 { **Shri Ram Ratan Gupta:**

Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for expanding trade with West Asian countries; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

The Minister of International Trade in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) and (b). Expansion of trade with West Asia is continuously under review and all possible measures as would expand trade with all these countries are being taken including the conclusion of trade agreements/arrangements with each of these countries.

A statement showing some of the steps which have either already been taken or are proposed to be taken in order to promote exports is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

Steps for Expanding Exports

1. Constant review of trade agreement/arrangements.
2. Show-rooms, exhibitions and fairs, tea nooks, and vans to popularise Indian goods.
3. Sending our trade delegations abroad or inviting such foreign delegations to India.
4. Priority in allotment of foreign exchange for raw materials for export goods.
5. Simplification and liberalisation of export promotion schemes involving grant of import licences for raw materials, components and machinery.
6. Promoting the establishment of a large number of Export Houses and international trading firms.

7. Enlargement of the role of the State Trading Corporation and Export Promotion Councils.

8. Consideration of measures for reduction in cost structure of major export industries and export commodities.

9. Modernisation of industries by including import of capital goods and equipment as an entitlement in every export promotion scheme.

10. Refund of customs and excise duty as drawbacks on exported goods.

11. Income-tax relief to exporters announced in the last budget.

12. Intensification of activities like market surveys and product display.

13. Easier availability of indigenous raw materials for manufacture for export.

14. Liberalised and expanded financial and credit facilities to exporters is being provided. Export Risk Insurance Corporation is giving more and more liberal facilities. Further steps to make credit cheaper for exports are being considered.

15. Establishment of an effective system of Quality Control, grading and pre-shipment inspection. A "Quality Control and Inspection Advisory Council" has been already constituted.

16. Priority in movement and concessional railway and ocean freight rate on goods for export. Priority for movement for exports by railways has been accorded and wagons will be marked 'for export' which will receive priority movement.

17. Director of Incentive Director of Movements and Director of Quality Control have been appointed as full-time officers. Simplification of procedures for grant of export promotion entitlement has been introduced. A Director of Production is being appointed who will have commodity officers under him to continuously look after the progress of production programmes of important export commodities.