

pended during the last monsoon has been re-started?

(b) If so, what is the nature of the work?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) The work on the Kosi Project has not yet started. Only investigations are in hand. Work was suspended during monsoon since field work cannot be executed during heavy rains. Work was resumed immediately after monsoon i.e., in October, 1952.

(b) The various items of the work are:

- (1) Foundation explorations for concrete dam at Belka Dam site,
- (2) Soil surveys for the earth dam,
- (3) Topographical surveys and property surveys for the reservoir area,
- (4) Surveys for construction material, such as coarse and fine aggregates, and
- (5) Surveys for the Western Kosi Canal system.

PROTECTION OF HINDUS IN EAST BENGAL

***226. Giani G. S. Musafir:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) what steps have been taken by the Government of Pakistan for the protection of the Hindu Minority Community in East Bengal; and

(b) whether there has been any correspondence with the Government of Pakistan in regard to this matter and if so, what is the result?

The Deputy Minister of External Affairs (Shri Anil K. Chanda): (a) The hon. Member's attention is invited to the reply to starred question No. 220 asked by Shri B. C. Ghose in the Council of States on the 15th December, 1952. A copy of the question and the answer are placed on the Table of the House. [See Appendix II, annexure No. 27.]

(b) There has been some correspondence with the Prime Minister of Pakistan. This deals with a number of issues among which is the one referred to in the question. This correspondence is still continuing.

LABOUR HOUSING SCHEMES

***227. Shri Heda:** (a) Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state what are Government's 463 PSD

plans for the housing of workers, other than factory labour, with particular reference to agricultural labour?

(b) What are the States that have taken up such schemes?

The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Sardar Swaran Singh): (a) No specific schemes have as yet been formulated by the Central Government regarding the housing of workers, other than industrial labour. Though it is unlikely that, within the financial resources now available, it would be possible to extend the scope of our housing schemes to embrace all workers in general, it is proposed to examine whether some assistance could not, as a first step, be given to State Governments and local bodies in the matter of slum clearance where the benefit of such schemes will not necessarily be confined entirely to industrial workers.

(b) As no definite scheme of Central aid has been formulated I am at present not in a position to say which State Governments have schemes in this behalf.

CANAL WATERS DISPUTE

***228. Shri Damodara Meemon:** Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether negotiations are still going on between India and Pakistan for the settlement of the canal waters dispute; and

(b) what is India's stand in this matter?

The Prime Minister (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): (a) At the instance of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, an Indus Basin Working Party of engineers, designated by India and Pakistan, has been formed to study, together with the Bank Engineers, possible technical measures for increasing the water supplies now available for irrigation to both the countries from the Indus System of rivers, taken as a unit. The Working Party has already held three meetings in Washington, Karachi and Delhi since June 1952.

(b) India's position in this matter was stated in the agreement arrived at with Pakistan on the 4th May, 1948. It is our belief that the rivers of the Indus basin contain enough water to supply all the needs of India and Pakistan. This might, however, require certain steps to be taken to make those waters available. Meanwhile, India has been continuing to supply water to the Pakistan canals in accordance with the agreement of 4th May, 1948. This supply