

(b) The information in the possession of Government does not justify this assumption.

FLOODS IN NORTH BIHAR

*1315. **Shri Bibhuti Mishra:** Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any scheme in contemplation for checking recurrence of floods particularly in North Bihar; and

(b) whether Government have deputed any expert for surveying the area concerned?

The Deputy Minister of Irrigation and Power (Shri Hathi): (a) Generally, it is the responsibility of the State Governments concerned to take adequate measures for the prevention of floods within their territory. In regard to Kosi in North Bihar, which has been under investigation by the Central Government, they have evolved a scheme for the control of floods. I would, in this connection, draw the attention of the hon. Member to the statement made by the Minister of Irrigation and Power in reply to Short Notice Question No. 6 on the 14th December 1953. As regards the general flood problem in North Bihar excluding Kosi, a suggestion has been made to the State Government to have detailed surveys and investigations conducted to enable formulation of proposals for controlling the floods and improving the drainage in the area.

(b) No, Sir.

AUTOMOBILE INDUSTRY

*1316. **Shri Radha Raman:** (a) Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to refer to the answer given to starred question No. 652 asked on the 19th August, 1953 and state whether the automobile manufacturing firms have submitted their specific detailed programmes to Government?

(b) If so, will a copy of the programmes be placed on the Table of the House?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) These are under examination. It is hoped that Government would be able to give the House information about the gist of the targets for 1954 early next Session.

CENTRAL BOILER BOARD

*1317. **Sardar A. S. Saigal:** (a) Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state how many times the Central Boiler Board met this year?

(b) What new suggestions has the Board given pertaining to the manufacture of locomotive boilers and boiler plates?

(c) How much money is being spent on this Board every year?

The Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Sardar Swaraj Singh):

(a) Twice.

(b) Railways being outside the purview of the Boilers Act, the Board is not concerned with the manufacture of locomotive boilers.

(c) The Central Government's share of the expenditure on the Board would amount to about Rs. 5,000/- per annum.

INDO-PAKISTAN BORDER

*1318. **Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:** (a) Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state whether it is a fact that on the Indo-Pakistan border in Rajasthan, nomads are crossing the border without permits?

(b) Is it a fact that such raids are damaging the property and cattle of the area in large number?

(c) What steps have Government taken in the matter?

The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of External Affairs (Shri Sadath Ali Khan): (a) From the 1st January 1953, only one group of nomads is reported to have crossed into Rajasthan from Pakistan.

(b) No.