

lend support to the borrowing programmes of the State Governments, but they do not finance directly any irrigation projects which require very long-term loans.

The approval of His Majesty's Government of Nepal to the alignment of the first 22 miles of the Western Kosi Canal is still awaited and all possible efforts are being made to expedite it. Meanwhile a pilot project to irrigate part of the Western Kosi Canal command area through tubewells is also under consideration of the State Government.

Development of Karnali Hydro-Electric Project in Nepal

1381. SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 1490 on the 5th August, 1970 regarding construction of multipurpose project in Nepal and state:

(a) whether consideration of the proposal for the development of Karnali Hydro-Electric Project in Nepal has since been completed;

(b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any proposal for hydel multipurpose projects near the falls of Bagmari Kamala and a branch of Kosi has since been received; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD): (a) and (b). The proposal regarding the development of Karnali Hydro-electric Project in Nepal is still under consideration.

(c) and (d). No proposals in regard to the construction of Hydel/multipurpose projects near the falls of Bhagmati, Kamla and one branch of Kosi in Nepal have been received.

Fall of Jute Prices in Bihar

1382. SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 5108 on the 2nd September, 1970 and state:

(a) the causes of the fall of Jute prices in

Bihar from Rs. 99.13—191.84 in 1968-69 to Rs. 72.34—155.40 per quintal in 1969-70 and what effect it had on jute cultivation in the present year;

(b) what was the price, production and purchases by the S.T.C. in West Bengal in the corresponding years with causes of the difference; and

(c) whether the information about previous employment of S.T.C. officers has since been collected?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI RAM SEWAK): (a) The fall in price in 1969-70 was due to the larger crop in that year. According to available reports, the crop in Bihar this year is likely to be higher than last year.

(b) A statement is attached.

(c) Only one Officer, viz. Shri A.K. Sen, Deputy Marketing Manager (Gr. II), who is an ex-employee of a private jute mill, is working in the Branch Office of the Corporation at Calcutta.

STATEMENT

	1968-69	1969-70
Price of Northern Jute (a representative variety) in West Bengal	Rs. 115.21 to Rs. 198.26 per quintal	Rs. 92.34 to Rs. 182.19 per quintal
Production of Jute (and mesta) in West Bengal	15.44 lakh bales	37.36 lakh bales
Purchase of jute in West Bengal by S.T.C.	NIL	36,863 bales

Price disparity between West Bengal and Bihar jute is mainly due to difference in quality, and this is a normal feature.

Balance of Trade with Hard Currency Areas

1383. SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state:

(a) the balance of trade with the dollar and sterling areas on the one hand and with the rupee payment areas on the other during the last three years; and