

K. NATWAR SINGH) : (a) The barrage (not dam) constructed by the Sindri Unit of the Fertilizer Corporation of India in 1949-50, has outlived its utility consequent upon the construction of a dam on Damodar River by Damodar Valley Corporation. The Company is in touch with Bihar Government, however, to make best utilisation of said barrage for facilitating supply of additional drinking water in the vicinity.

(b) Does not arise.

Selection of English and Hindi News Readers' of AIR.

3147. SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the procedure adopted for selection of English and Hindi news readers of All India Radio;

(b) whether Government are aware of the poor quality of news reading both in English and Hindi, and the mistakes committed by some of the news readers; and

(c) if so, the steps propose to take to improve the quality of news reading ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI V. N. GADGIL) :

(a) At present there are two grades of News Readers in English and Hindi—Junior Grade and the Senior Grade. Junior Grade is filled 100 per cent by limited selection from amongst the eligible Staff Artists of All India Radio failing which by direct recruitment. Senior Grade posts are filled by promotion on selection basis from amongst the Senior Grade.

(b) and (c). Constant efforts are being made to improve the quality of news reading both in English and Hindi. The News Services Division appraises the performance of various News Readers and also provides opportunities for training. A panel of experts has also been constituted to suggest improvements.

Construction of hotel by DDA in I. P. Estate

3148. SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Delhi Development Authority started construction of a hotel in Indraprastha Estate, New Delhi for Asiad-82;

(b) if so, the time by which it was scheduled to be completed and the cost thereof;

(c) the time by which it will be completed and at what cost;

(d) the reasons for delay and higher cost;

(e) the reason why DDA took over this construction instead of concentrating on building of houses; and

(f) whether it is a fact that a private party wanted to purchase the hotel even as incomplete, but DDA did not agree; and if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI DALBIR SINGH) : (a) No, Sir. The project was conceived in the shape of providing a practice hall and allied facilities for Asiad-82.

(b) The hotel building was expected to be completed by August 1983 at an estimated cost of Rs. 16 crores including the cost of land but excluding the items to be executed by the collaborators, which had not been fixed.

(c) The Collaborators have not been fixed up by DDA so far. No time schedule or the final cost can, therefore, be anticipated.

(d) Non-fixation of collaborators.

(e) The construction of building known as Players block was planned as an integral part of Sports complex under the comprehensive plans prepared for this entire complex

to provide suitable residential facilities in the vicinity of Indira Gandhi Stadium.

(f) No, Sir.

[Translation]

Villages connected with Roads

3149. SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA :
SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS
MUNSI :

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of the villages with population upto 1500 connected with main road or road leading to other villages during the Sixth Five Year Plan under the Minimum Needs Programme;

(b) whether the roads so built are pucca roads and whether these roads still exist or are in damaged condition;

(c) whether there are still such villages with the population upto 1500 which have not been connected with main road so far; and

(d) if so, the total number of such villages and the reasons for not connecting them with main road ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDULAL CHANDRAKAR) : (a) According to the Sixth Plan document, all the villages with population over 1500 and 50 per cent of the villages with population between 1000-1500 are to be connected with all weather roads by 1990 under the Minimum Needs Programme (MNP) and 50 per cent of such villages were to be connected during the Sixth Plan. Thus, only 6177 villages (besides 22128 villages already connected as on 1-4-80) with population between 1000-1500 were envisaged to be connected by all weather roads by 1990. Against this, according to Planning Commission, 6839 villages of this category have been connected by all weather roads during the Sixth Plan.

(b) MNP envisages connection of villages by all weather roads. Information about the maintenance of roads is not monitored by this Ministry.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The target for villages falling under this category to be connected by 1990 under MNP has already been achieved. However, there are 27642 villages with population between 1000-1500 which still remain to be connected. Of this, 3851 villages are proposed to be connected during the Seventh Plan.

[English]

Storage of imported sugar and wheat

3150. SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA :
Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is shortage of warehouse accommodation with the Food Corporation of India;

(b) the quantity of sugar imported from January to August, 1985;

(c) how the imported sugar is stored, at what places and details of quantity kept at each station;

(d) in how many places and in what quantities the sugar, imported and indigenous, got spoiled due to bad storage or otherwise since January, 1985;

(e) how the sugar so spoiled was disposed of; and

(f) whether the storage of imported sugar in F.C.I.'s warehouses resulted in wheat bags lying in the open for many months resulting in damage to the quality and in pilferage; if so, to what extent ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO) :
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The quantity of imported sugar that actually arrived in the country from January, 1985 to August, 1985 aggregates to about 6.5 lakh tonnes.