

THE MINISTER OF TRANSPORT (SHRI BANSI LAL) : (a) The situation of congestion of the Major Ports varies from time to time,

- (b) (1) Arrival of a large number of ships exceeding port capacity.
- (2) Inadequate capacity of handling agents.
- (3) Bunched arrival of ships.
- (4) Caking of fertilisers during monsoons due to its hygroscopic nature.
- (5) Disruption of operations on account of rains etc.
- (6) Lack of adequate mechanical handling facilities.
- (c) (1) Development of new berths adding to port capacity.
- (2) Increase in mechanised handling facilities.
- (3) Monitoring by Ministry/Chairman of Ports of waiting ship on a regular basis.
- (4) Continuance of incentive for midstream discharge at Ports like Bombay.
- (5) Rationalisation of cargo movement to the Ports.

Additional Land to be Irrigated in Uttar Pradesh during 7th Plan

1703. SHRI HARISH RAWAT : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) the total additional area of land, in hectares proposed to be irrigated in Uttar Pradesh during the Seventh Five Year Plan period and the amount allocated for this purpose;

(b) whether he is aware of the fact

that sufficient resources are not being made available for many multi-purpose major and medium projects of the State including Tehri Dam; and

(c) if so, the steps, Government propose to take for the timely completion of these projects ?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : (a) An additional irrigation potential of 4,237 million hectares is proposed to be created during the Seventh Plan in Uttar Pradesh. The approved outlay during the plan is Rs. 1932 crores.

(b) and (c). Irrigation and multi-purpose projects are funded and implemented by the State Governments themselves who allocate funds for individual projects within the overall approved plan outlay, depending upon the priorities assigned by the States. Central assistance is given in the form of block loans and block grants.

The State Governments have been advised to allocate adequate funds for completion of ongoing projects which are in an advanced stage to derive benefits during the Seventh Plan Period.

[Translation]

Amendment to Inter-state Water Disputes Act

1704. SHRI VIRDHI CHANDER JAIN : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that due to the inadequacy of the provisions of the present Inter-State water disputes act, most of the Inter-State water disputes have been pending for decades;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to bring forward a legislation to amend the above Act to facilitate speedy settlement of pending water disputes;

(c) whether Government propose having a new national water policy in this regard; and