

(d) if so, the steps being taken by Government to save the poor farmers' land from getting destroyed through siltation?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) The Beas-Sutlej Link Project has been completed by the Beas Construction Board.

(b) Silt ejector has been installed on the Project at Baggi.

(c) No fertile land is being destroyed by silt thrown by the silt ejector at Baggi. However, some damage was caused by erosion in the initial stages.

(d) Remedial steps like stone pitching for protection of embankments, placing of wired stone crates, construction of foot bridges etc. have been taken up.

Rehabilitation of Pong Dam Custeas

5254. PROF. PREM KUMAR DHU-MAL: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Pong Dam oustees;

(b) the details of land earmarked for allotment among the displaced persons in Rajasthan canal areas of Rajasthan to rehabilitate the Pong dam custeas and the area of land actually allotted to them;

(c) the number of displaced persons rehabilitated in this area so far; and

(d) the steps being taken by Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) 16100.

(b) An area of 2.25 lac acres was

earmarked for allotment to the displaced persons in Rajasthan Canal area to rehabilitate the Pong Dam Ousteas. Of this, 1.18 lac acres is located in Ganganagar and Bikaner districts and 1.07 lac acres is located in Jaisalmer district.

80,000 acres approximately has been actually allotted to them.

(c) 5132.

(d) The Union Government has initially constituted a Committee of Chief Ministers of Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and Rajasthan under the Chairmanship of Union Minister for Irrigation and Power to deal with the problem of rehabilitation of Pong Dam Ousteas. Various meetings were held during the period 1968-72 and the Rajasthan Colonisation rules, 1972 were framed. With the intervention of the Central Government a Memorandum of Understanding was reached between the Chief Ministers of Himachal Pradesh and Rajasthan on 13th September, 1981 to consider the applications of the oustees which were earlier cancelled for their not taking possession in time and non-payment of instalments on due dates etc. and also to give a chance to others who could not apply earlier. A Sub-Committee under the Chairmanship of Joint Secretary, Ministry of Energy, has been constituted to monitor and review the progress of rehabilitation of the Pong Dam Ousteas. The last meeting of this Committee was held on 11th April, 1990.

[Translation]

(Interruptions)

MR. SPEAKER: Shri Aggarwal, Please sit down. I shall call you too. All of you, please sit down

(Interruptions)