

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR Mr Speaker Sir I can assure one thing I myself have worked in the fields and my hands are a testimony to it
(*Interruptions*)

SHRI DILEEP SINGH BHURIA I did not want to know about the hon Minister I was enquiring about the policy (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR I express what I think You are right We shall formulate a policy only after eliciting the opinion of the farmers those who work in the field It would not be dealt with in a casual manner

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA Mr Speaker Sir I have doubts about the reply given by the hon Minister Our agricultural policy is totally one sided Only the interests of the big farmers who extract work from labourers are kept in mind Our policies do not protect the interests of those who actually work in the fields I would insist that the steps taken for land reforms

MR SPEAKER Mr Bhogendra Jha you may please come to your question

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA I am doing just that At the meeting of the State Revenue Ministers held in 1986 and 1987 it was unanimously decided to expedite the land reform process including delimitation distribution of surplus land ownership rights to the tiller distribution of surplus lands donated during the 'Bhoodan Movement' protection of the common land set aside for public utility etc Will the Government accelerate the land reform process and implement these decisions under the national policy on agriculture and will it ensure the transfer of ownership rights into the hands of the tiller?

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR Mr Speaker, Sir, perhaps the hon Member has not gone through the Land Ceiling Act Had he gone through it

he must have been aware of the number of people required for cultivating a piece of land If the production is to be increased a lot of work has to be done even if it is a 15 or 2 acres of land Whoever contributes to farming in my opinion is a farmer and their interests will always be uppermost in our minds We will be able to protect the overall interests of the farmers only if we adopt such an attitude If we don't look after the interests of those who work in the fields it will all be an exercise in futility (*Interruptions*)

DR I AXMI NARAYAN PAN DEYA Mr Speaker Sir keeping in view the prevailing financial crisis I would like to know from the hon Minister whether there is a possibility of reduction in subsidy on fertilizer or its being withdrawn (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR Mr Speaker Sir this is something which future would unfold how can I say anything about it The Finance Minister may be able to comment (*Interruptions*)

DR I AXMI NARAYAN PAN DEYA Mr Speaker Sir the hon Minister has said in the other House that subsidy cannot be reduced in this way (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR Mr Speaker Sir since it is a question for the Finance Minister to answer I cannot reply However there is no contradiction in whatever I have said I had said in the past and I am still maintaining it that we should not reduce subsidy If it is done I shall have to give them full compensation We shall have to safeguard the interests of the farmers no matter how it is done

Talks with Nepal on Multi-purpose Projects

*97 **SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA** Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state

(a) whether bilateral talks between India and Nepal with regard to con-

struction of multi-purpose projects on Kosi, Kamla, Bagmati, Mahananda, Pancheshwar and Karnali rivers were held recently; and

(b) if so, the details and outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) and (b) Bilateral talks were last held in April, 1991 in the second meeting of the Indo-Nepal Sub-Commission on water resources. It was agreed to work for a Project Definition Report for Pancheshwar Project and completion of additional studies for Karnali Project. Concrete programme of action could not emerge for other projects

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA. Mr. Speaker, Sir, subsequent to a 'Call Attention' being raised in the House last year we were informed

[*English*]

"Among the various proposals, Kosi High Dam is of utmost importance to us as it will provide solution to control the River Kosi on a long term basis besides providing immense irrigation and power benefits to both the countries.

A project report has been prepared by Nepal on the Kosi High Dam. The feasibility report of the Kosi High Dam was given by India to Nepal in August 1981 and the matter is still pending."

[*Translation*]

Mr. Speaker, Sir, in response to my letter to the present Prime Minister he has stated recently that during the talks recently held with Nepal the areas of cooperation in the core sector of water-resource development have been identified. We have opened dialogue with Nepal for various projects in this area including projects on Kosi and Kamla rivers. We shall continue the same. We were given a clear feasibility report regarding the parleys held and I went in

person to Nepal on 1st May, 1984 on the invitation of Nepalese Government. I would like to know categorically the position in respect of each of the Karnali, Pancheshwari, Kosi and Bagmati projects.

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, discussions were held on all the projects mentioned by the hon. Member and some concrete outcome was achieved in respect of projects mentioned by me in my reply but as regards the other projects, certain complications developed between us and Nepal and the result was that nothing concrete could be achieved till date. In the light of this we formed a study group but the said group has not submitted its report so far, we will pursue the entire work as soon as we are in receipt of the report. I agree with the views expressed by the hon. Member that Kosi and other projects are very important for us. We will make every effort to go ahead with this work.

SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA. Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is a part of that very reply:

[*English*]

A project Report for Karnali has been prepared by Nepal in February 1990, but without taking India's interests into consideration.

[*Translation*]

The same is the case with regard to Kosi from the Nepalese side. What I want to stress is that nature has created all of us and these rivers are flowing from South to North not because either Nepal or we want them to flow in that direction and as such there exists no clash of interest between Nepal and India and it is in the interest of both the nations. I would like to know whether you propose to start a discussion with Nepal at the political level because of the fact that bureaucrats strain our relationship on petty issues. As such this issue should

be settled at the diplomatic level so that the constraints encountered by both the countries in the field of electricity, flood control, irrigation, roadways and railways can be removed and Nepal would turn into a heavenly abode. From this point of view there should be a negotiation at diplomatic level on this issue.

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, whatever the hon. Member has said is a fact. The interests of India and Nepal regarding the water resources issue are common and as the hon. Member has rightly mentioned, whatever progress has been made in this field is all due to discussions held at diplomatic level otherwise whenever we leave an issue to be settled at the technical or official level the progress is hampered and no substantial progress is made. Therefore, progress was made in this field when the Prime Minister paid a visit to Nepal last time and now too we will make an effort to accelerate work on all these projects at the earliest by dealing it on political level and also by arriving at a consensus and our attempt should be to make proper utilization of the time that has been wasted.

SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, is the hon. Minister aware of the fact that the Nepalese Government has started irrigation projects on the rivers which have been referred to, particularly the rivers in the Bagmati and Kamla Balan areas and this is an encroachment on our rights. Will the Government of India take initiative to implement these projects for safeguarding our economic position, which the Nepalese Government had recommended to the Government of India? Will the Government hold talks with Nepal to safeguard the interests of India regarding Bagmati Irrigation Project and other rivers?

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, when the hon. Member was in the Ministry of External Affairs he took initiative and we were greatly benefited by it. We

will continue that initiative and follow it up.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the projects that have been mentioned by the hon. Minister, namely, Kosi Kamla, Bagmati, Mahananda, Pancheswari and Karnali and those on Indo-Nepal border and also those near Sitamarhi, Darbhanga and the twelve blocks of Madhubani district are badly affected by Adhwara river network projects which include thirteen rivers, namely, Adhwara, Jamura, Khirai, Jhim, Rato, Marha, Hardi, Dhaunsh, Sanghi, Kokra, Budhnad, Lakhanda, and Old Adhwara. Will the Minister state whether the Government would hold negotiations with the Nepalese Government for working on all the projects including Adhwara group project. Nepal is the origin of thirteen rivers, these rivers originate from the Himalayas from Ram Nagar Ramaya, will the negotiations be held with Nepal to consider the construction of a multi-purpose dam at that place..?

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, all the rivers originating from Nepal flow into India and provide water to the entire country. As the hon. Member has said, most of the rivers flow into Bihar. We had discussed this issue earlier also and as per the discussion we had today the question of all the rivers was taken up and the details of those rivers, in respect of which substantial progress has been made, were also given. Discussions on other issues are under way and it will be our effort that an early progress is made.

SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether it is a fact that it is a question of life and death for the ten crore people residing in the border areas of Nepal and India. Is the Government aware of the fact that a special study team visited Nepal on 17th January, 1991 in connection with Kosi Bagmati, Kamla, Pancheswari, Karnali and Adhwara projects, which

have been discussed here and it has submitted its report in favour of setting up a Water Commission. Does the Government propose to set up a high level committee in connection with setting up of a Water Commission and construction of hydel dam and other projects and initiate Indo-Nepal talks in order to implement these projects immediately.

SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the hon. Member has very rightly pointed out that the happiness and sorrow of the crores of people of the North Bihar largely depend on these rivers because in the event of floods in these rivers their fields are submerged and their life is affected, they face immense hardships and losses every year. Hence this issue has been discussed at all levels including technical and political levels and as I have already said, in order to expedite the same we will take political initiative so that this work may progress as early as possible (*Interruptions*).

[*English*]

Security Cover for Tourists Visiting Kashmir

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*83 **SHRI M. V CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY:**
SHRI V SREENIVASA PRASAD.

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the militants in Kashmir kidnapped and opened fire on a group of foreign-tourists at Dal Lake recently:

(b) if so, the details of the casualties in the incident:

(c) whether the Government propose to probe into the incident; and

(d) the steps taken to provide security to tourists visiting Kashmir?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB): (a) to (d) A statement is laid on the table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) Eight foreign tourists were abducted from a house boat in the Dal Lake on 26th June, 1991.

(b) One abducted Israeli snatched one AK-56 rifle from one of the terrorists. In the consequent shoot-out, one Israeli tourist was killed and three were injured, while two terrorists are also reported to have been killed and one injured.

(c) The criminal case is under investigation.

(d) Security to tourists is a part of the overall efforts of the Administration to contain terrorism and bring back normalcy in the Valley. The Government of Jammu & Kashmir has identified vulnerable pockets and active gangs for gearing up anti-terrorist operations, organising Nuka ambushes and effective deployment of para military forces in the affected/sensitive pockets. Day and night patrolling in vulnerable areas, raids on hideouts of terrorists have been intensified. Many top leaders of the terrorist outfits have been detained and a large quantity of arms and ammunition have been seized. Intelligence has also been strengthened

SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the attack on foreign tourists is the first incident of this kind since the eruption of militancy in Kashmir in 1988 and also in view of the Centre's role in Kashmir, I want to know from the hon. Minister in this regard whether the Government is prepared to create a Special Task Force to give security cover to the foreign tourists.