

tion to generate resources for the irrigation sectors in the country;

(b) if so, by when the proposed Corporation is to be set up; and

(c) to what extent the new Corporation will provide adequate finance to the irrigation projects in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) :
(a) to (c). At the National Conference of Ministers of Irrigation and Water Resources held recently, a suggestion was made to set up an Irrigation Finance Corporation to generate resources for the Irrigation sector in the country. However, there is no such proposal under consideration.

Erosion caused by Brahmaputra

4355. SHRI BHADRESHWAR TANTI :
Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of large scale erosion being caused by Brahmaputra at Moriahola and Kaziranga National Park and also by Dhansiri at Marangi in Golaghat Sub-Division;

(b) if so, what action is proposed to be taken to protect Kaziranga National Park, Moriahola and Marangi;

(c) the number of families which have been affected by Moriahola erosion and rendered homeless;

(d) whether Government propose to protect Moriahola, Kaziranga National Park and the Morangi area from such erosion by way of constructing spurs; and

(e) if so, the details and cost thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) :
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government of Assam proposes to take up schemes for protecting these areas.

(c) According to State Government, 911 families have been affected.

(d) and (e). The State Government proposes to undertake anti-erosion works to provide protection to these areas.

The estimated cost for works at Moriahola is Rs. 10.45 crores and for Morangi it is Rs. 14.55 lakhs.

Prices of proprietary items purchased by different railways

4356. SHRI YASHWANTRAO GADAKH PATIL : Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Railway Board has investigated into the cases where the difference in the prices of proprietary items purchased by different railways for the same quantity, quality source of purchase was as high as 20 per cent as recommended by the Railway Convention Committee in their Second Report (8th Lok Sabha); and

(b) if so, the result of the investigations and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAV RAO SCINDIA) : (a) Yes.

(b) Investigations confirm that there are only some marginal variations in prices on account of difference in sizes and descriptions of items, time gap between successive purchases and variations in market conditions and duties, etc.

Hostel subsidy to railway employees

4357. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA :
Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether orders were issued by the Railway Board on 17 July, 1978 to pay Rs. 60/- per month per child as hostel subsidy to such railwaymen who are compelled to keep their child/children in hostels of recognised schools;

(b) if so, how many such railway employees have been paid hostel subsidy at the rate of Rs. 60/- per month during 1986; and