

(b) how much has been exploited so far; and

(c) the steps being taken during the Seventh Five Year Plan to tap the potential fully?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) to (c). The estimated irrigation potential of the country is about 113 m. ha. A potential of about 67.5 m. ha. has been created upto the end of Sixth Plan. It is proposed to create the ultimate potential by 2010 AD or so and the Seventh Plan envisages the creation of an additional potential of 12.9 m. ha. towards achieving this objective. Earmarking of outlays on important projects, central monitoring of selected projects and assisting State Governments in procuring scarce construction material and equipment are among the steps being taken to realise this target.

Delay in clearance of Kerala Irrigation Project

869. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the names of irrigation schemes in Kerala still pending clearance with Union Government;

(b) the reasons thereof; and

(c) the time by which each of these projects will be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) to (c). Comments on 2 major and 1 medium projects received since 1985, have been sent to Government of Kerala for their Compliance.

Closing of navigation lock-gate at Farakka

870. SHRI ZAINAL ABEDIN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the navigation lock-gate at

Farakka was opened on 16 November, 1987;

(b) whether it is a fact that the said lock-gate was closed on 29 November, 1987;

(c) the reasons for closure of the gate;

(d) whether it will be opened again; and

(e) if so, when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) to (e). Do not arise.

Privatisation of Public Sector Steel Plants

871. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the World Bank in a report recently submitted to Government has advocated partial privatisation of the public Sector Steel Industry and has made some other suggestions;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) Government's reaction thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) to (c). The World Bank staff has prepared a draft report entitled "India--Steel Sector Strategy Report". This is an internal document of the World Bank. While the staff report has considered various issues related to the Steel Industry, the World Bank has not made any recommendations to Government of India in this regard. Any decisions on concerned matters will be taken strictly according to India's own priorities and policies.

Revenue collection

872. SHRI SOMNATH RATH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state: