

ICAR Research on Brackish Water Plants

4751. **SHRIMATI KISHORI SINHA** : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Indian Council of Agricultural Research has done any research in the use of sea water for growing certain crops tolerant to brackish water ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether any plans are afoot to use sea water for irrigation in coastal areas ;

(d) whether U.S.A. had offered India technologies for growing certain oilseed crops using sea water ; and

(e) if so, Government's reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH AND EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HARI KRISHNA SHASTRI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Central Salt and Marine Chemicals Research Institute (C.S.M.C.R.I.) of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research has conducted preliminary experiments to investigate possibilities of using sea water as supplementary source of irrigation to grow some field crops and halophytes in the coastal sand dunes.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The technologies are still in the developmental stages.

Construction of New Bridges on National Highway No. 2 in U.P.

4752 **SHRI SWAMI PRASAD SINGH** : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to construct new bridges on National Highway No. 2 in Uttar Pradesh ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) the time schedule fixed for their completion and the estimated cost thereof ;

(d) the sources from where the projects are to be financed ; and

(e) the agency to whom the works have been entrusted ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) In the Seventh Plan, there is provision for construction of six bridges. These are—Ganga bridge at Varanasi, Yamuna bridge at Agra, Sasur Khaderi bridge at Km. 132, and 3 minor bridges. Four of them viz. Ganga bridge at Varanasi, Yamuna bridge at Agra, Sasur Khaderi bridge at Km. 132 and minor bridge on Khaga bypass have been sanctioned.

(c) The work of Ganga bridge at Varanasi has been awarded and the scheduled date of completion is 1992. The work of other bridges has not yet been awarded. The estimated costs of the four bridges sanctioned are as follows :

Ganga bridge at Varanasi	— Rs. 2658 lakhs
Yamuna bridge at Agra	— Rs. 379 lakhs
Sasur Khaderi bridge in Km. 132	— Rs. 35 lakhs
Minor bridge on Khaga bypass	— Rs. 4 lakhs

(d) The cost of the bridges is to be met out of the funds made available for the development of National Highways.

(e) The work of Ganga bridge at Varanasi has been awarded to M/s. Hindustan Construction Co. Ltd. and will be executed through the agency of Uttar Pradesh State Government.

Highway Projects by IRCC in India And Abroad

4753. **SHRI SIMON TIGGA** : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :