

(b) and (c) It has been reported by the Assam Government that very large areas of Ahatguri Mauza has been eroded since 1970. The erosion is extending over a stretch of approximately 40 kms. of the bank in this Mauza necessitating shifting of three Satras, namely, Kamlabari, Auniati and Bengenati. State Government have also reported that protection works will not be economically viable.

Allotment of A Plot to Assamese Community Living in Delhi

3905. SHRI PURNA SINHA: Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) if a memorandum was submitted by the Assamese community living in Delhi and New Delhi for a plot of land to establish a Centre in the Capital to cultivate the teachings of the great social reformer of Assam Shri Shanker Deva patronised by the late Rashtrapati Shri Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed; and

(b) if so, whether Government intend to allot a plot of at least one acre near about the Assam House, New Delhi so that the Centre may be started without any further delay?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION (SHRI SIKANDAR BAKHT): (a) No such memorandum has been received.

(b) Does not arise.

Damage to Standing Crops Due to Lack of Irrigation in Assam.

3906. SHRI PURNA SINHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether every summer standing AHU and JUTE crops in the Brahmaputra Valley and Surma Val-

ley of Assam are damaged by the overflowing waters of the Brahmaputra, Barak and their tributaries;

(b) if so, the estimated loss annually to these crops in these valleys;

(c) steps Government propose to make irrigation of the main channels of the river Brahmaputra and Barak by mechanical process to ensure quick drainage of waters by these rivers;

(d) steps the Government propose to commission high-powered dredger-steamers to deepen the channels of these two rivers every winter; and

(e) whether the Government propose to obtain aid from the World Bank so that permanent flood control machinery is established to save valuable agricultural land of poor farmers of Assam State from the perennial floods and soil erosion by these two rivers?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): (a) and (b). The Brahmaputra, the Barak and their tributaries cause damage to crops by spillage at one place or the other every year during the monsoon period in Assam. According to the reports received from the State Government, the average annual flood damage to crops in Assam is of the order of Rs. 7.4 crores.

(c) and (d). Presumably the Hon'ble Member is suggesting deepening of the main channels of Brahmaputra and Barak rivers by dredging to increase their carrying capacity and thereby reduce or prevent spillage. Such a process is not economically or technically feasible for huge rivers like Brahmaputra and Barak.

(e) There is no such proposal at present.