

Erosion of Banks of Ganga, Padma and Brahmaputra

*11. SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state the preventive and remedial measures taken to check the alarming erosion of banks of Ganga, Padma and Brahmaputra rivers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH): The problem of bank erosion exists in varying degrees in all alluvial rivers in some reach or the other but is serious at a number of points along the Brahmaputra and in some reaches along Ganga in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, and in Ganga and Padma in West Bengal.

Anti-erosion measures from part of the flood control sector which is included in the State Plan, and the initiation, formulation and execution of flood control schemes is the responsibility of the State Governments. The important anti-erosion schemes undertaken by the State Governments include anti-erosion works at Barhiya, Masi and Narayanpur in Bihar, anti-erosion measures on the left bank of Ganga near Gaihat in Uttar Pradesh and anti-erosion measures for protection of Dhubri and Dibrugarh in Assam.

In West Bengal, the State Government have been taking measures for protection against erosion in the vulnerable reaches of the Ganga. In the period 1972-76, the State Government have spent about Rs. 5.5 crores on short-term measures at vulnerable points of erosion. The State Government have also prepared a project report at an estimated cost of Rs. 63 crores to deal with the problem in the entire affected reaches along the right bank of the Ganga. For its finalisation, collection of detailed data, investigations and hydraulic model studies are being done. As a short term measures, for protection of Jangipur Barrage Complex against threat from erosion by

river Ganga a sum of Rs. 9 lakhs has also been spent by the Farakka Barrage Authorities for construction of two submersible boulder bars.

Amendments to Urban Land Ceiling Act

*12. SHRIMATI PARVATHI KRISHNAN: Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to make some amendments to the Urban Land Ceiling Act; and

(b) if so, what are the proposed amendments and the reasons for making such amendments?

THE MINISTER OF WORKS AND HOUSING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION (SHRI SIKANDAR BAKHT): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Foodgrains destroyed during Monsoons

*13. SHRI AHMED M. PATEL: SHRI KANWAR LAL GUPTA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity and value of foodgrains destroyed during the recent monsoons;

(b) the reasons for it; and

(c) the steps taken or proposed to be taken to prevent it in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH): (a) A quantity of 8,345 tonnes of foodgrains valued at Rs. 112 lakhs has been segregated as damaged and unfit for human consumption till October, 1977. As some of the damaged stocks would be disposed off as cattle and poultry feed, the loss would be reduced to that extent.