

Negotiations with Nepal regarding flood control in Rapti and Ghagra Rivers

2087. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:

SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA:

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

(a) the progress so far made in the negotiations being held with the Government of Nepal regarding the dams proposed to be constructed in that country for controlling the floods in Rapti and Ghagra rivers;

(b) whether any agreement has since been signed; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH): (a) In regard to the Karnali Project (Karnali is a tributary of the river Ghagra) an Indo-Nepal Joint Committee has been set up to examine the preliminary issues with regard to the execution of the project. The Committee met in April, 1978 and decided to form two joint groups and two separate groups in each country to study different aspects of the project and submit their reports to the Committee within three months.

For investigation of Pancheshwar Hydro-Electric Project (on river Sarda, a tributary of the Ghagra), a Joint Expert Group has been set up. The first meeting of the group was held in April, 1978. The Expert Group recommended that a Joint Technical Team should be established for preparing terms of reference for the investigations to be carried out and the estimated cost thereof. Names of Indian representatives to the team have been forwarded to His Majesty's Government of Nepal. Their nominations to the team are awaited.

As regards Rapti (Bhalubhang) Projects, a meeting was held in January, 1978 between the officials of His Majesty's Government of Nepal and the Government of India to finalise arrangements for investigation of the project and to prepare detailed project estimates. It was decided in the meeting that a team of Indian officers should visit Kathmandu to assist His Majesty's Government of Nepal for preparing cost estimates for field investigation and preparation of the detailed project report. The team visited Kathmandu in March, 1978 and have estimated the cost of investigation to be Rs. 5.34 crores. Negotiations are going on with His Majesty's Government of Nepal in regard to the agency to be entrusted with the work of investigation and preparation of the project report, sharing of the cost of field investigation and preparation of the detailed project report and setting up of a Joint Technical Committee for guiding the investigations of the Project.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Contaminated drinking water in Kalkaji, New Delhi

2088. SHRI V. G. HANDE: Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether contaminated drinking water is being supplied to 'K' Block Kalkaji for the last 3 years; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons for this contamination and what remedial steps Government propose to take in this regard?

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

(b) Does not arise.