

### Kosi Project

5759. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that Kosi Project has fallen short of its expectations; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): (a) and (b). The Kosi Project is primarily a flood control and irrigation project. The construction of the barrage near Bhimnagar in Nepal and embankments downstream of the barrage on both banks of the Kosi river have proved to be successful in jacketing the river and arresting its shifting tendency as well as in preventing flooding and position of sand outside the embankments. However, the embankments are subject to river erosion for which river training and anti-erosion steps are being taken up as and when needed. Although irrigation from Kosi project commenced in 1964, the development of irrigations is slow due to the following reasons peculiar to the Kosi tracts:—

The lands were in the past the river bed (Khadir) of the Kosi. The land is quite sandy and unlike the rest of North Bihar, quite undulating with numerous shallow depressions and sluggish drainage. The low lying areas comprising drainage lines, which were the most fertile, and had better soil-moisture regime were brought under intensive cultivation. Large areas of the command are under perennial water. Solution of the drainage problem is difficult partly because of the local topography and partly because of public opposition to the use of land for purpose of drainage. The number of escapes are few and even where they have been provided, it has been difficult to operate them, as the channels below have been encroached upon

and cultivated. Owing to the high silt load of the river there has been considerable silting of the canal system.

The Central Government and the State Government are seized of the special problems of this project. The Government of Bihar have been asked to prepare scheme of modernisation of the Kosi Canal System after in depth studies of the deficiencies of the present system and a comprehensive review of the irrigation commands under different outlets. This modernisation scheme should provide for re-modelling of canals to provide adequate capacity and construction of additional minor water courses, re-modelling/provision of masonry structures like falls, adequates, syphons, escapes, etc. provision of permanent outlets controlled by gates, lining of the canal system, adequate drainage in the command and conjunctive use of ground and surface water. With a view to step up the utilisation of the irrigation potential, the State Government would have to strengthen its command area organisation so as to provide necessary infrastructure including land reforms, land consolidation, laid shaping, field channels, field drains etc., and also agricultural extension services.

In order to tackle the problem of silting, afforestation and soil conservation measures are necessary in the Kosi catchment and the cooperation of the Government of Nepal is being sought in this regard?

### Qualification of P.E.Ts., Craft, Domestic Science, Language and Music Teachers

5760. SHRI DAJIBA DESAI: Will the Minister of EDUCATION, SOCIAL WELFARE AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the qualifications prescribed for appointment to the post of Junior (P.E.Ts., Craft Teachers, Domestic Science Teachers, Language Teachers