

Haldi rivers of West Bengal is essential for flood-prevention in the Districts of Midnapur and Hooghly as well as for improving condition of Hooghly river itself, on which Calcutta Port is dependent;

(b) is it also a fact that the condition of Rupnarayan and Haldi is deplorable now; and

(c) if so, whether Government propose to take steps for working out and execution of effective scheme for proper maintenance of these rivers in immediate future?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND IRRIGATION AND COAL (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURY): (a) to (c). Resuscitation, proper up keep and maintenance of not only Rupnarayan and Haldi rivers, but also of a number of other river channels like the Amta channel of the Lower Damodar, Cossayee, Darakeswar Mundeshwari rivers, are necessary to provide adequate drainage for relieving frequent inundation in areas of Midnapur and Hooghly districts and also to improve the channel conditions of Hooghly river. The sustained flow from the Farakka Barrage has substantially improved the Hooghly river.

A high level Technical Committee was set up by the West Bengal Government to examine the Lower Damodar drainage scheme which has submitted its report in July, 1978. The terms of reference to this Committee, *inter alia*, covered improving the drainage capacity of the Rupnarayan river. The decision taken by the Government of West Bengal on the recommendations of this Committee has not been intimated. However, in the Annual Plan proposals for 1980-81, an amount of Rs. 100.00 lakhs has been proposed by the Government of West Bengal. West Bengal Government have been requested to

take up Flood Plan Zoning in affected areas to minimize flood damage.

The Master Plan for Ghatol area which provides for improvement of the rivers, also includes river Haldi. This Master Plan is currently under examination by the Ganga Flood Control Commission.

News-Item Captioned "Experts yet to suggest Teesta Water Plan"

34. SHRI SHIV KUMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of ENERGY AND IRRIGATION AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn towards a news-item appearing in the *Hindustan Times* dated the 21st February, 1980, under the caption "Experts yet to suggest Teesta Water Plant";

(b) if so, the steps being taken by the Government of India for a fruitful agreement between the two countries expeditiously; and

(c) the time by which the project is expected to be completed and states irrigation of the lands in India as agreed to earlier by the two countries?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND IRRIGATION AND COAL (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Indo-Bangladesh Joint Rivers Commission set up a Joint Committee in December 1978 for the purpose of working out an agreement on the sharing of the Teesta waters between India and Bangladesh and to this end the Joint Committee was asked to examine the availability of water at the sites, the requirements of water by each country and how these requirements could be met. The Joint Committee has so far met thrice. The Indo-Bangladesh Joint Rivers Commission discussed at its recent 18th meeting held between the 27th

and 20th February, 1980 the issues relating to the sharing of Tista waters. The meeting was adjourned and it is proposed to be resumed as soon as possible.

(c) The Tista barrage and a part of the canal system in West Bengal are under construction at present and it is expected that substantial benefits will accrue from the works in about five years time.

Position of Electric Supply with Breakdowns/Power Cuts

35. SHRI CHANDRABHAN AT-HARE PATIL: Will the Minister of ENERGY AND IRRIGATION AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) State-wise position of electric supply, indicating breakdowns power cuts during the last three months and the reasons for such power cuts;

(b) what was the shortfall in the production of foodgrains, in the production of industrial produce and how much labour remained idle and unutilised as a result of such power cuts; and

(c) what is the State-wise position of average breakdown of electricity per day in the rural areas in the last three months?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND IRRIGATION AND COAL (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI): (a) Statement I indicating State-wise position of power supply for the last three months from December, 1979 to February, 1980 is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-393/80]. Another statement No. II giving the power cuts/restrictions in the various States during December, 1979 to February, 1980 is also laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-893/80]. Power cuts/restrictions on use of power had to be imposed by the various State Governments due to shortfall in availability of

hydro power to meet the increased load demand as a result of drought in most of the States, high forced outage rate of thermal generating units and inadequate installed capacity in some States. Under conditions of simultaneous outage of more than one generating unit, load-shedding had to be resorted to in addition to normal power cuts/restrictions. Breakdowns in power supply are further contributed by failure of transmission and distribution system.

(b) Although shortage of power does adversely affect agricultural and industrial production but it is difficult to quantify the loss in production due to shortage of power alone as there are a number of other factors like availability of raw material, industrial relations, finances etc. which also affect production. For the same reason, it is difficult to assess as to how much labour had remained idle as a result of such power cuts alone.

(c) States have been advised to accord high priority to the supply of electricity to rural areas for agriculture. However, due to shortage in overall availability, supply to rural areas is sometimes limited to a specified number of hours and at times due to unforeseen outages of generating units, load shedding is resorted to in order to preserve the stability of the system. In view of the large network of distribution lines in the rural areas all over the country, it is difficult to monitor the average breakdown of electricity per day in the rural areas.

S.O.S. by Gujarat Government to rush Coal supply for Power Stations

36. SHRI MAGANBHAI BAROT:
SHRI D. P. JADEJA:

Will the Minister of ENERGY AND IRRIGATION AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Gujarat Government have sent an SOS on the 7th Feb