

**Major and Medium Irrigation Schemes of Maharashtra pending Clearance**

210. SHRI UTTAMRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 15 major and 16 medium irrigation projects are lying pending clearance with the Central Government in respect of the State of Maharashtra for more than three years;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(c) by when Government propose to clear these projects?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION (SHRI KEDAR PANDAY): (a) (3). Major Projects namely, Nandur Madhmeshwar, Warna and Tillari of Maharashtra are pending clearance with the Central Water Commission for over three years. No medium irrigation projects is pending for clearance for more than 3 years in the Central Water Commission.

(b) and (c). These projects are pending clearance as replies to the comments/clarifications sought by the Commission are still awaited from the State Government. The State Government have been requested as depute their officers for discussions of outstanding points, so that the projects can be cleared early.

**Shortfall of Fertilizer Production**

211. SHRI P. M. SAYEED: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that prospects of any improvement in fertilizer production are bleak because of the deteriorating power supply position in the country;

(b) if so, whether the shortfall of power has been one of the principal reasons for the dismal fertilizer production during the last year;

(c) if so, whether the same position is prevailing in the current year also;

(d) to what extent the shortage of fertilizer has been; and

(e) what steps are being taken to improve its position?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) to (c). Production in many fertilizer plants has been seriously affected on account of power cuts/restrictions imposed by the various State Electricity Boards. This has been one of the major factors accounting for a substantial production loss in 1979-80. The power availability in the period after July, 1980 would depend considerably on the nature of the coming monsoon.

(d) and (e). During the current season, no shortage of fertilizer has come to the notice of the Ministry of Agriculture who arrange the supplies of fertilizers.

To the extent there is a gap between the requirement and domestic production of fertilizers, adequate import arrangements are made. Besides, buffer stocks of fertilizers are maintained by the Ministry of Agriculture at a number of places to ensure timely supply of fertilizers.

**Talks between Bangladesh and India regarding sharing of Ganga Waters**

212. SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION be pleased to state whether pending any settlement between the Governments of India and Bangladesh regarding sharing of Ganga waters, Government of India propose to ensure that requirement for the port of Calcutta is met adequately?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION (SHRI KEDAR PANDAY): The Government of India and Bangladesh have signed on 5th November 1977 an Agreement on the sharing of the

Ganga waters at Farakka and on augmenting its flows which will remain in force for five years unless extended by mutual agreement.

In the dry season there is not enough water in the Ganga to meet the full requirements of both the countries. The Agreement therefore provides for the Indo-Bangladesh Joint Rivers Commission to carry out investigations and study of schemes relating to the augmentation of the dry season flows of the Ganga proposed by either Government. Though the Indian and Bangladesh proposals for this purpose are before the Commission not much progress has so far been made in the study thereof by the Commission. The Agreement provides for reviews the first of which will be due by November, 1980 and again later in May 1982. The matter of providing the requisite flows to Calcutta Port will be raised during these reviews. All possible efforts will also be made to expedite a long term scheme for augmentation of Ganga flows in the dry season so that the requirements of Calcutta Port are fully met.

#### **Magneto Hydro-Dynamic Method of transforming Thermal Energy**

213. SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY: Will the Minister of ENERGY AND IRRIGATION AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the magneto hydro-dynamic method of transforming thermal energy yields better power output;

(b) whether the MHD experimental model in Tiruchinappally has been completed; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken to develop MHD as part of long term energy strategy?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND COAL (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI): (a) The Gageneto Hydro-Dynamic method of transforming thermal energy is theretically expected to yield more efficient power

output. However, no continued commercial experience with such a process is yet available. The reliability and availability of such units, therefore, cannot be confirmed.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The Working Group on Energy Policy constituted by the Government has not envisaged that the MHD technology would contribute in any significant way to the energy programme upto the year 2000. The efforts are at present only in the R&D stage.

#### **Action taken for boosting Coal Production as announced by Energy Minister**

214. SHRI K. T. KOSALRAM: Will the Minister of ENERGY AND COAL be pleased to state the action taken on the measures for boosting coal production as announced by the Minister of Energy while inaugurating the seminar on the prospects of Indian Exports sponsored by the All India Manufacturers Association in Calcutta?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND COAL (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURI): The following steps have already been taken to step up coal production:

(i) Allocating higher priority for supply of power to the coalmines.

(ii) Importing explosives to bridge the gap in the indigenous availability.

(iii) Improving the supply of HSD to the coalmines by allotting it a higher priority.

(iv) Controlling absenteeism amongst the miners particularly in Eastern Coalfields Ltd. and Bharat Coking Coal Ltd.

(v) Improving the law and order situation in the coalfields with the assistance of the State Governments.