

consultancy services, training, arbitration cases, foreign collaboration etc. to promote the business of the Corporation.

(c) to (e). According to procedure prescribed by the Government, foreign tours of the Chief Executives and part-time as well as full-time Directors of the Board of the Indian Oil Corporation require prior approval of Government and those of other officers are approved by the Chairman/Managing Director of the Division concerned. The job requirement rather than seniority of officials is taken into account for the purpose of tours abroad.

(f) Tours abroad by incumbents of top posts and other officers in public enterprises are reviewed by Government from time to time and suitable instructions issued to restrict such tours to the minimum.

Heavy damage to crops in Midnapur District (of West Bengal) and Balasore (in Orissa) is due to floods in Subarnarekha

297. SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that occasional floods in the Subarnarekha cause heavy damage to crops in Midnapur District of West Bengal and Balasore in Orissa;

(b) whether Government have any plan to face the above; if so, what is the same;

(c) in what year this plan was made;

(d) what progress if any, has been made in the implementation of this plan; and

(e) if sufficient progress has not been made in this regard what are the reasons for the same?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION: (SHRI KEDAR PANDAY): (a) to (e). The Government of West Bengal and Orissa have reported that the Subarnarekha causes occasional flooding and heavy damage in Midnapur District of West Bengal and Balasore District of Orissa. A Tripartite Agreement has already been reached by the Governments of Bihar, West Bengal and Orissa in August 1978, according to which a flood storage of 0.375 million acre ft. will be provided by Chandil dam in Bihar for flood moderation benefits in West Bengal and Orissa. The Governments of West Bengal and Orissa have also agreed to discuss and plan for the simultaneous and coordinated construction of embankments along the Subarnarekha in consultation with the Central Water Commission, Ministry of Railways and the Ministry of Transport, Government of India. The West Bengal Government has informed that construction of flood embankments on the Subarnarekha for protecting the inundated areas can only be taken up after the Chandil dam is constructed and the intended flood moderation therefrom becomes available.

Floods in Bara Chowka Basin in Midnapur District of West Bengal

298. SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Bara Chowka Basin in Pataspur police station in Midnapur District of West Bengal suffer almost every year from flood caused due to water logging;

(b) whether Government have worked out any plan which will end sufferings of the people of the area;

(c) whether the previous plan in this regard has been changed; if so, why;

(d) how many villages fall within the range of Bara Chowka Basin and what is its population; and

(e) amount of damage (in terms of Rupee) caused by flood in the area, yearwise since 1975 to 1979?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION (SHRI KEDAR PANDAY): (a) to (e). The information is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

Release of water from Farakka barrage for Hooghly in 1980

299. **SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY.** Will the Minister of IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) what amount of water did the Hooghly receive from Farakka barrage in the lean months of 1980, month by month;

(b) whether Calcutta and Haldia ports are facing serious problems due to shortage of water; and

(c) if so, what remedial measures Government have to suggest and work upon to save Calcutta and Haldia?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION (SHRI KEDAR PANDAY): (a) The withdrawals by India at Farakka for Bhagirathi-Hooghly month by month during the lean months of 1980 are as under:

Month Withdrawals at Farakka (Cuses)

January, 1980	30,278
February, 1980	15, 249
March, 1980	14,271
April, 1980	14,390
May, 1980	25,999

(b) and (c). The low flows this year have proved to be of great disadvantage to the Calcutta Port. The Indian proposal for augmentation of Ganga flows in the dry season has been placed for the consideration of the Indo-Bangladesh Joint Rivers Commission along with the Bangladesh proposal. The Government of India are pursuing all possibilities to ensure the full requirements of Calcutta Port.

Construction of Hindustan Fertiliser Corporation of India at Haldia

300. **SHRI NARAYAN CHOUBEY:** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have completed the construction of Hindustan Fertiliser Corporation of India's factory at Haldia;

(b) what were the various target dates for its completion and start of production therein;

(c) what had been first estimate for its construction and whether the same has been changed again and again; and

(d) if so, how many times the said estimates has been changed and reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) Although the project is mechanically complete, the commissioning activities are held up on account of non-availability of power.

(b) The Techno Economic/Feasibility Report for the project placed the target date of September 1976 for commercial production. The project authorities had to revise these targets in the course of actual implementation of the project thrice as given below:—

	1st revision	2nd revision	3rd revision
Commercial production date	1-11-79	1-4-80	1-4-81