

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI RAMDULARI SINHA): (a) to (c) Film Finance Corporation had taken Akashwani Auditorium in Bombay on rental basis from November 1972 and Lotus Cinema, Bombay on lease for three years from February 1980. Akashwani Auditorium was closed for security reasons in June 1975 and Lotus Cinema has been temporarily closed from 17th July, 1980 for demolition and construction of a new theatre at the back of the same site. The new theatre is expected to be ready in six months and will be available to the Corporation on completion. The Akashwani Auditorium will also start operating as an art theatre very soon. The necessary permission has already been obtained and minor structural changes are being made as required by the Licencing Authorities.

(d) Government of Maharashtra has been requested by the Corporation to exempt films shown in art houses from payment of entertainment tax. It is proposed to pursue this matter with the State Government.

Kosi Embankment Project

6026. DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Planning Commission has severely criticised the effectiveness of the Kosi Embankment Project;

(b) whether the Planning Commission has suggested new plans to Government; if so, the details thereof; and

(c) whether Government have started fresh negotiations with the Government of Nepal on the above subject?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION (SHRI KEDAR PANDAY): (a) to (c) The evaluation study conducted by the Planning Commission has brought

out that the construction of embankments on both sides of the river Kosi had helped to hold the river and protect a vast area of 1.6 lakh hectares from the revages of floods in Saharsa district of Bihar.

It has also been concluded that the construction of the embankments had brought about certain indirect benefits such as development of fisheries, introduction of social forestry in the shape of canal bank plantations, development of village industries, net work of improved communication system, improvement in general health of the people and appreciation in land value.

However, the continued rise of the river bed has created problems of seepage and drainage congestion, aggravating the problem of waterlogging in the protected area. The study has also called attention to the need for undertaking simultaneously all the development activities in the area for achieving tangible effects.

It has been suggested that negotiations should be taken up with H.M.G. of Nepal for large scale soil conservation measures in the upper catchment of the river lying in Nepal to reduce excessive sediment load in the river. Talks have been going on from time to time at various levels and are continuing on the question of development of water resources on the rivers flowing from Nepal to India, including the construction of a high dam on river Kosi at Barakshetra and afforestation and soil conservation measures.

Production of Proteins from Molasses

6028. SHRI R. L. BHATIA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Institute of Petroleum has developed a process to produce proteins from molasses; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS

(SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The IP has been experimenting with materials such as molasses for production of proteins. Their experiments so far on bench scale model show promise. However, considerable amount of further studies is required before the process can be taken up for commercialization.

Purchase of Insecticides and Pesticides by D.G.S. & D. for N.M.E.P.

6029. SHRI PRATAP BHANU SHARMA: Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that D.G.S.&D. has not purchased insecticides and pesticides for N.M.E.P. since last two years;

(b) if so, reasons therefor; and

(c) the present policy for the purchase of insecticides and pesticides for N.M.E.P. Programme?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) No Sir.

The insecticides like DDT, Paris Green, Temophos, Fenthion, Pyrethrum based emulsifiable Larvicidal oil etc. are being procured. Only BHC 50 per cent and Malathion 25 per cent has not been purchased since last two years.

(b) As the question of shelf-life of 24/12 months for BHC 50 per cent/Malathion 25 per cent was required to be sorted out with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Indian Standard Institution, Central Insecticides Board, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers and the manufacturing firms, the procurement of BHC/Malathion has not been made since last two years.

(c) All types of insecticides/pesticides required for N.M.E.P. are being procured and the procurement of

BHC 50 per cent/Malathion 25 per cent by DGS&D will be taken up after finalising the question regarding shelf-life in consultation with other concerned Departments of the Government.

Purchase of Stores by D.G.S.&D.

6030. SHRI PRATAP BHANU SHARMA: Will the Minister of SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of purchases made by the Directorate General of Supply and Disposal during 1979-80 for the stores required under the Central Government Purchase Programme;

(b) the value of the stores purchased from SSI units of the country;

(c) whether price preference consideration was given to SSI units; and

(d) what is the percentage for price preference to SSI units in comparison to big industries?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION (SHRI VASANT SATHE):

(a) Total purchases:—

	Rs. 965.66 Crores.	}*
Indigenous:—	Rs. 925.56 Crores.	

(b) Rs. 119.09 Crores.*

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Up to 15 per cent.

*Figures are provisional.

Promotion of Surveyors in Ganga Basin Water Resources Organisation

6031. SHRI R. P. DAS: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal for promotion of the Surveyors who are working in the Ganga Basin Water Resources Organisation for the last ten years; and