

**Irrigation schemes of Bihar expenditure which is borne by Centre**

2863. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR YADAV: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the irrigation schemes in Bihar on which the expenditure is being borne by the Centre and details of the progress thereof;

(b) whether the Central Government have a scheme to provide irrigation facility to the entire fertile land in Bihar; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

The progress of works up to June 1980 on major items of Western Kosi Canal in Nepal territory is as under:—

Work	Total work to be done	Total work already done
(i) Earth work . . . . .	46.92 lakh cu.m.	44.65 lakh cu.m.
(ii) Lining . . . . .	17.13 lakh sq. m.	13.59 lakh sq. m.
(iii) Structures . . . . .	60	18 completed 12 under construction.

The progress of work up to September 1980 in respect of Gandak Project (Bihar), benefiting Nepal is as under:

(i) *Nepal Eastern Canal* has been completed and handed over to HMG Nepal.

(ii) *Nepal Western Canal*: Nearly 70 per cent has been done.

(iii) *Navigation Lock and Navigation Canal*: This work has been completed.

(iv) *Nepal Power House*: All civil works have been completed and electric turbine has been installed and the power house operation has been started. It is expected that the Power House will be handed over to Nepal very soon.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) The Central Government is providing special assistance to the Government of Bihar, outside the State Plan ceilings, for meeting the cost of construction of Nepal portion of the Western Kosi Canal in the Kosi Project. The cost of the Nepal portion of the Canal allocable to Nepal, is met by grants-in-aid. The assistance meant for financing the balance cost is treated as loan;

Similarly the Central Government is financing expenditure on the portion of the Gandak Project benefiting Nepal by giving grants-in-aid to the Government of Bihar.

(b) and (c). No, Sir. Irrigation being a State subject, the State Government has to formulate the scheme.

**Heavy Siltation in Kosi Canal**

2864. SHRI D. L. BAITHA: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is heavy siltation in the Kosi Canals in North Bihar which obstructs the free flow of irrigation to the fields rendering them less fertile and unfit for cultivation;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a heavy amount is being spent over-de-silting the canal during the overall

irrigation cost higher and higher every year; and

(c) if so, what measures Government propose to take to avoid siltation and annual rising cost of irrigation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) Yes, Sir. Due to relatively high silt charge in the Kosi river during floods despite operation of silt excluder and the ejector, bed silting in the Eastern Kosi Canal is taking place.

(b) Only an amount of Rs. 75 lakhs has been incurred during 1969-70 to 1973-74.

(c) The Government of Bihar are also taking expeditious action for finalising additional works to reduce silt entry into the East Kosi Canals at the head. Central Water Power Research Station, Pune has been requested to carry out required hydraulic model tests.

#### **Construction of Commercial Tenements**

2865. SHRI S. B. SIDNAL: Will the Minister of WORKS AND HOUSING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a spurt in construction of commercial tenements in various places in Delhi and advertisements of sale of these tenements at exorbitant prices have been appearing in newspapers;

(b) the reasons for the Delhi Development Authority not constructing of its own and selling the tenements to genuine users at reasonable prices; and

(c) whether Government propose to examine the whole matter so as to check the pushing up of prices?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND WORKS AND HOUSING (SHRI BHISHMA NARAIN SINGH): (a) to (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

#### **Base Year for Fixation of Target of Production of Foodgrains**

2866. SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state what will be the base year with regard to the fixation of foodgrains target since in 1979-80 the production levels were abnormally low because of the drought?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND RURAL RECONSTRUCTION (SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN): The Sixth Five Year Plan (1980-85) is currently under formulation. The Steering Group, set up by the Planning Commission to formulate the Sixth Five Year Plan relating to Agriculture and Allied Sectors, considered various alternatives for determining the base level of crop production to be adopted for the purpose of working out the Sixth Plan targets. As the year 1979-80, which preceded the Sixth Plan (1980-85) period, was characterised by abnormal drought conditions on account of which the production of foodgrains declined to a very low level, that year could not be taken as the base year. The Steering Group decided in favour of working out the trendline estimate of production of foodgrains for 1979-80 on the basis of the growth rates of production of foodgrains observed during the period 1967-1979 which covered almost the entire Green Revolution period. This trend-line estimate worked out to 127.9 million tonnes of foodgrains for 1979-80 which was considered by the Steering Group as a fairly representative base year figure for the Sixth Five Year Plan.