

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.