

[English]

Supply of Water by DVC

3386. KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that the DVC has stopped supplying water for irrigation purpose to West Bengal due to non-payment of dues and as such the Boro Cultivation is suffering; and

(b) if so, the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) and (b) The water is released in accordance with the indents placed by the Government of West Bengal and payment of dues is not a precondition for the release of irrigation water.

Release or Irrigation water from DVC reservoirs is decided by the Damodar Valley Reservoir Regulation Committee (DVRRC) comprising representatives of Government of West Bengal, Government of Bihar, Central Water Commission (CWC) and Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC), taking into account the availability of water.

Bofors Deal

3387. LT. GENERAL SHRI PRAKASH MANI TRIPATHI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the then Chief of the Army Staff had recommended the cancellation of the Bofors contract after it became evident that bribes had been paid in the Bofors deal; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV) : (a) and (b) The then Chief of Army Staff was requested to give his assessment of the implications of cancellation of the Bofors contract in June, 1987, on receipt of report of the Swedish Audit Bureau about the payment of winding up charges by Bofors. The communication received from the then Chief of Army Staff expressed the view that the threat of cancellation of the contract could be used, if necessary, to compel Bofors to provide full information regarding the alleged payment of moneys. It also stated that although the cancellation of the contract would lead to a large void in the vital artillery support to field formations for 18 months to 2 years, he was prepared to live with it as a calculated risk. The COAS was requested to re-examine the matter comprehensively as it was felt that the note did not contain an evaluation of the precise security implications, the attendant risks and the relative strengths and weaknesses of potential adversaries during this period, in relation to probable threat scenarios. The second note, received from the then COAS on 15.7.1987, was, virtually, a verbatim copy of his first note.

Rice for Mid Day Meal Scheme

3388. SHRI ISWAR PRASANNA HAZARIKA : Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the quota sanctioned to Assam of free rice being supplied under the Government's Mid-day Meal Scheme for school children for the year 1996-97;

(b) the quantity despatched and the quantity lifted out of it from FCI godowns by the State Government during the current year so far;

(c) whether the State Government has failed to lift the full monthly quota from time to time during this period; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAJKIA): (a) Under the National Programme of Nutritional Support to Primary Education, popularly known as Mid-day Meal Scheme, the State of Assam has been allocated 62,815 metric tonnes of foodgrains (rice) for the year 1996-97.

(b) According to information furnished by the Food Corporation of India, the State Government has lifted 16,885 metric tonnes of rice upto February, 1997.

(c) and (d) A statement giving information furnished by Food Corporation of India regarding monthly lifting of foodgrains in Assam during 1996-97 is enclosed.

Statement

ALLOTMENT	(Figures in Metric Tonnes)
Total for the Year 1996-97	62,815
LIFTING	
April, 1996	Nil
May, 1996	Nil
June, 1996	297
July, 1996	781
August, 1996	2,969
September, 1996	3,144
October, 1996	2,644
November, 1996	2,791
December, 1996	1,081
January, 1997	1,841
February, 1997	1,337
Total :	16,885