

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The works are lagging behind mainly because of paucity of funds.

(c) The project was accepted by Technical Advisory Committee in 1982 for an estimated cost of Rs. 480.00 crores. The latest estimated cost at 1990 prices is Rs. 1428.89 crores.

(d) World Bank has been approached for providing assistance.

(e) and (f). Rehabilitation and resettlement work are being carried out as per the Rehabilitation Policy approved by the Irrigation Department of Bihar.

(g) During 1995 two letters dated 4.1.95 were received from Shri Ram Tahal Choudhary, Member of Parliament regarding problems being faced by the displaced persons of Chandil & Icha dams and to conduct a review of the project by a team of Members of Parliament. These letters were replied by the Hon'ble former Minister of State, Water Resource vide letter date 12.2.96.

Treaty Relating Inland Water Transport Between India-Bangladesh

2332. SHRI ISWAR PRASANNA HAZARIKA : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is a treaty between India and Bangladesh relating to Inland Water Transport;

(b) if so, the volumes of cargo movement under the treaty between the two countries during the last three years.

(c) whether there are operational and other difficulties in increasing cargo movement along the river route under the treaty; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government to review and if necessary, revise the treaty to facilitate and augment transportation of goods between India and Bangladesh?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) Yes, Sir. There is an Indo-Bangladesh Protocol on Inland Waterways Transit and Trade.

(b) The volume of cargo movement by Inland Waterways Transport through CIWTC Ltd. during the last three years is as under :

Year	Tonnage (in M.T.)
1993-94	21,113
1994-95	25,536
1995-96	60,572

(c) and (d). In order to increase cargo movement the existing treaty is proposed to be re-negotiated in the review meeting.

[Translation]

AIBS

2333. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have introduced the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Scheme (AIBS);

(b) if so, the purpose thereof and the basis and terms on which State Governments would be extended financial assistance for the expansion of irrigation facilities and the time by which it is likely to be provided;

(c) the amount likely to be allocated to Bihar under the Scheme; and

(d) whether financial allocation will also be made for making most of the damaged canals in Purnia division, fully fit for irrigation purpose under the Scheme?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. An amount of Rs. 900 crores has been provided in the budget of the Ministry of Water Resources for the year 1996-97 for giving Central Loan Assistance (CLA), to the State Governments under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) for expediting completion of large irrigation and multipurpose projects costing more than Rs. 1000 crores which are beyond the resources capability of the States (Rs. 800 crores) and for completion of other projects which are in advanced stage of completion and with just a little additional resources, the project could be completed and farmers could get the benefit of assured water supply to about 1,00,000 ha. in one of the next four agricultural seasons (Rs. 100 crores). Only those ongoing projects which have received investment clearance from the Planning Commission are eligible for funding under this Programme. The State Governments are required to provide equal funds from their resources. The assistance is in the form of loans at 13% rate of interest per annum during 1996-97 and at the rate of interest as prescribed by the Ministry of Finance in the subsequent years. The loan will be repayable in 20 equal instalments together with interest on the outstanding balance commencing from the following year. However, 50% of these loans will enjoy a 5 year initial grace period, after which repayment of these loans will be effected in 15 annual equal instalments. The loans annually payable (by way of principle & interest) would be recovered in ten equal monthly instalments commencing from 15th June.

(c) The total Central Loan Assistance approved to the State of Bihar under AIBP for 1996-97 is Rs. 25 crores - Rs. 20 crores for the Western Kosi Canal Project and Rs. 5 crores for Upper Kiul Project. Release Orders for 50% of the approved CLA amount i.e. for Rs. 12.5 crore has already been issued towards the first instalment.