

(a) whether suggestion has been received with regard to the multi-purpose dams over rivers Kosi at Barahkshetra, over river Kamala at Sisapani and over Bagmati at Nunther and coordinating Adhwara and Bagmati projects of India therewith;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereon with reasons therefor;

(c) whether H.M.G. Nepal had offered the steps in connection with the multi-purpose dam at Nunther to the Government of the U.S.S.R.;

(d) if so, steps taken in this regard; and

(e) the steps taken in the direction of constructing multi-purpose dams at the latest secretary level meeting between two countries ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) and (b) Shri Bhogendra Jha, M.P. had been urging the Ministry of Irrigation in respect of multi-purpose dams over the river Kosi at Barahkshetra, over the Kamala at Sisapani and the Bagmati at Nunther. Since the project sites are located in Nepal, Nepal will have to agree to take up even the investigation for the projects. So far there is no such agreement. As such the question of taking steps in the direction of constructing these projects does not arise. He has also been urging the Ministry of Irrigation that the project on Bagmati in India should be co-ordinated with the project on the Adhwara group river. Irrigation and Flood Control Projects are planned and executed by the State. Bihar Government is of the view that Flood Control works in Bagmati and those on Adhwara Group of rivers are quite independent of each other.

(c) and (d) HMG Nepal have given no indication in this respect to the Ministry of Irrigation.

Procurement Price of Paddy

1085. SHRI CHITTA BASU : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the percentage in the rise of the procurement price of wheat has always been larger than that of the paddy;

(b) if so, whether it proves a disincentive for the paddy cultivation;

(c) whether Government propose to increase the procurement Price of the paddy commensurate with that of wheat; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) :

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) An important consideration in the fixation of procurement price is the cost of production of the concerned commodity. Since the increases in the cost of production are of different order in the case of each commodity for a number of reasons, it is not possible nor desirable to increase the procurement price of each commodity by the same proportion every year.

Proposal from FICCI for Consumer Protection

1086. SHRIMATI SANYOGITA RANE : Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the FICCI had proposed suggestion for consumers protection and extended help to the Government to protect the consumer's interest;