

(a) and (b). A beginning in the preparation of a detailed basin plan of development has been made recently by the Centre for the Mahanadi and Ganga basins. The State Governments have also been requested to undertake the preparation of Master Plans to the extent feasible, without going into the question of sharing of waters of inter-State rivers. The work is complex and requires considerable field work and studies.

De-Silting Operations at Bhageerathi near Kakdwip, West Bengal

7437. SHRI MADHURYA HALDAR : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to take up immediately de-silting of Bhageerathi near Kakdwip, District 24 Parganas, West Bengal to facilitate boat service and introduce launch service between Sagar islands and Kakdwip ; and

(b) if so, when the work is likely to be started ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. N. KUREEL) : (a) There is no proposal for de-silting of the Bhagirathi near Kakdwip.

(b) Does not arise.

Plan to Control Floods In Sundarban Area, West Bengal

7438. SHRI MADHURYA HALDAR : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have any plan for controlling floods in 'Sundarban area', 24 Parganas, West Bengal ; and

(b) if so, the broad outlines thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. N. KUREEL) : (a) and (b). The Government of West Bengal have prepared a preliminary scheme named "Sunderbans Delta Project Phase I", estimated to cost Rs. 18.75 crores, for providing protection to an area of 1.2 lakh ha.

The flood control works included in this scheme are construction of 75 km of marginal embankments, closure dams across the main channels to prevent entry of sea water into the protected area, remodelling of the drainage system and provision of sluices. The Scheme has been examined by the Centre and the State Government have been advised to prepare a detailed project report after carrying out necessary investigations. Since the preparation of the detailed scheme is likely to take some time, the State Government have prepared a scheme for construction of 100 sluices, which will fit into the ultimate scheme, to give immediate relief. This scheme has been sanctioned by the Planning Commission.

Compensation to Cultivators evicted from Railway Land belonging to Punalur Railway Station

7439. SHRI A. K. GOPALAN : SHRI M. K. KRISHNAN :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the behaviour of the Railway authorities of Punalur Railway Station, Quilon District and Ariankavu Railway Station, Trivandrum District, Kerala who are harassing and evicting poor 'Kudiki-dappu-kars' and peasants ;

(b) whether the matter has been enquired into and if so, the result thereof ; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to restore the lands to the evicted peasants and the amount of compensation given to the cultivators of Edapalyam for the loss incurred due to the destruction of their cultivation ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI HANUMANTHAIYA) : (a) and (b).

It was observed by the Sectional Permanent Way Inspector that in the Punalur-Bhagavathipuram section, the railway land on top of the cuttings was being unauthorisedly utilised by outsiders for cultivation of tapioca and plantain trees. This resulted in blocking of the catch water drain and loosening of the top soil causing slips in the cutting. Since this constituted a grave danger to rail