

recommended in their report in 1970 that additional water-way should be provided under the Railway and road bridges on Teesta near Jalpaiguri. The member representing the Railways dissented from this decision and suggested observations of river behaviour before deciding the extent of additional water-way.

Observations were carried out during the flood season of 1970. The results of the observations are under discussion amongst the Technical Officers of the Railway Board, State Government of West Bengal and Central Water and Power Commission.

The provision of additional water-way essential for the safety of the Jalpaiguri Town. The State Government of West Bengal have accepted the proposal to widen the road bridges but the extension of the road bridge will not be of use unless Railway bridge is also widened. The Chief Minister of West Bengal and the Prime Minister have also desired that the matter should be expedited.

It is necessary to prepare the scheme before the end of current monsoon season so that the works could be taken up immediately after the working season commencing from October—November, 71”.

It is too early to indicate at this stage as the need for extension of the Railway bridge still remains to be established. The question of widening of the Railway bridges in the light of the data collected during the observations of the river behaviour in the monsoon of 1970 and 1971, is under discussion amongst the technical officers of Ministry of Railways, Ministry of Shipping and Transport and the State Government of West Bengal under the Chairmanship of Member (Floods), Central Water and Power Commission.

Industries based on petro-chemicals in public sector

7450. SHRI DINESH JOARDER :

LOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have revised their earlier decision for setting up a number of industries based on petro-chemicals in public sector and issued licences to the big business houses for the same ;

(b) if so, the particulars thereof;

(c) the total number of licences issued to the big industrial houses for this purpose; and

(d) the reasons for changing the earlier decision referred to in part (a) above ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI GHANSHYAM OZA) : (a) to (d). The requisite information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Extent of Damage caused in Malda District, West Bengal by Floods

7451. SHRI DINESH JOARDER : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the number of families who were dispossessed of their land and the extent of damages caused to the crop, cattle and to the silk industry in the district of Malda, West Bengal during the flood in 1968-69 separately ;

(b) the main features of the report of the Central Government study team sent to Malda in September 1969 ; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take to control the flood of the rivers Fulaban, Mahananda, Kalindi and the Ganges in the district of Malda ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. N. KUREEL) : (a) The damage due to floods in the district of Malda during 1968 and 1969, as reported by the Government of West Bengal, is given

(b) The observations made in the report of Central Government's Study Team (September, 1969) relating to Malda District are as follows :

"There has been erosion in Manikchak and Kaliachak areas. Large areas of agricultural land have been inundated and standing crops of maize, sugarcane, jute, etc. damaged or destroyed. Mulberry plants grown for the sericulture industry over a large area in Kaliachak area have been damaged. The agricultural area thus affected is estimated at 107,000 acres. 6600 rearing sheds of silkworm rearers are reported to have been damaged or completely lost. There was a demand for protective bunds against the rivers Mahananda, Kalindri and Phulahar in the two northern *thanas* of the district."

(c) The following schemes have been prepared to tackle the problem of flooding in the rivers Phulahar, Mahananda, Kalindri and the Ganga :

(i) The Government of West Bengal have prepared the Mahananda Embankment Scheme, estimated to cost Rs. 3.67 crores. This provides for the construction of an embankment on the left

bank of the Phulahar branch in continuation of the proposed embankment in Bihar and extending upto Ratua and an embankment on the right side of the Barsoi branch from the end of the proposed Bihar embankment upto the existing Sambalpur bund. The scheme is to be processed for sanction by the Planning Commission after the receipt of the replies to the comments of the Central Water and Power Commission from the State Government.

- (ii) A regulator is being provided on the Kalindri river as a part of the Farakka Barrage Project to regulate the flows through the Kalindri spill.
- (iii) A preliminary scheme costing Rs. 1.56 crores for construction of an embankment on the left bank of the Ganga upstream of the Farakka Barrage upto the Kalindri regulator has been prepared by the State Government. This is to be prepared in detail by the State Government after taking into account the comments of the Central Water and Power Commission.

Statement

Year	Area affected in lakh ha	Population affected	Villages affected	Damage to crops		Damage to houses		Cattle lost	Human lives lost	Damage to public utilities in Rs. lakhs	Total damage to crops, houses & public utilities in Rs. lakhs	Remarks
				Area in lakh ha	Value in Rs. lakhs	Nos.	Value in Rs. lakhs					
1968	0.45	2,07,880	352	0.39	125.1	13,397	53.2	4	-	18.73	197	
1969	1.11	3,69,000	512	0.43	226	63,099	307	78	25	208	741	6600 rearing sheds of silkworm rearers were damaged in