

However, IOC has been meeting their requirements of indigenous feed-stock from the Madras Refineries Ltd.

(b) Does not arise.

#### **Progress made by Indo-Bangladesh Joint Rivers Commission**

8008. SHRI FATESINGHRAO GAEKWAD: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the progress made by the Indo-Bangladesh Joint Rivers Commission in connection with the joint survey of rivers common to both countries; and

(b) the steps taken by Government to speed up the survey and other work connected with it?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA):

(a) and (b). Good progress has been made in the Joint Survey of the Ganga from Farakka to the Gorai-Offtake. Photographic and Hydrographic survey has been completed. The joint ground control survey is now in progress and is expected to be completed by the end of May, 1973.

#### **Demand made for direct Rail link between Sitamarhi and Muzaffarpur by Members of Parliament from North-Eastern Railway Zone**

8009. SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any demand was made for establishing direct Rail link between Sitamarhi and Muzaffarpur at the recent Conference of M.Ps. from North-Eastern Railway Zone convened by the Railway Minister at Muzaffarpur; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) There have been representations for a direct

rail link between Sitamarhi and Muzaffarpur.

(b) *Prima facie* there does not appear to be any justification from traffic or financial angles for this direct rail link. Already the Samastipur-Muzaffarpur M.G. section is being converted to B.G. as a part of the Barabanki-Samastipur M.G. to B.G. composite project. Proposals for the conversion of Muzaffarpur-Raxaul or Samastipur-Darbanga-Raxaul metre-gauge sections into broad gauge are separately under consideration. This link can be considered only after a decision on the conversion project is taken.

#### **Flood Protection Projects in West Bengal**

8010. SHRI GADADHAR SAHA: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the flood protection projects in West Bengal with Central outlays during the last three years;

(b) the names and nature of scheme for flood control measures received from West Bengal Government and approved by the Centre during the said period; and

(c) the number of flood embankments and drainage channels constructed during the period under approved scheme with central outlays in West Bengal and the total cost thereof and the area benefited?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA):

(a) and (c). Flood Control is included in the State sector for which according to the present procedure, Central assistance is provided in the form of block loans and grants without trying them to any particular scheme or head of development. There is no Central or Centrally sponsored scheme in the flood control sector. However, the Government of India have agreed to provide special financial assistance during the last two years of the Fourth