

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

Plan, with a ceiling of Rs. 11 crores to the State Government of West Bengal for the speedy implementation of the following priority flood control schemes:

Name of the scheme	Estimated Cost	Area to be benefitted on completion
	(Rs. crores)	(Lakhs)
1. Mahananda Embankment Scheme	4.20	0.6
2. Improvement to Lower Damodar Basin	40.00	2.2
3. Dubda Basin Drainage Scheme	3.50	0.14
4. East Mograhat Drainage Scheme	2.96	0.21
West Morgha Drainage	1.50	0.23
5. Karaja Diversion Scheme	1.50	0.02
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>53.66</b>	<b>3.40</b>

During the year 1972-73, a sum of Rs. 3 crores was released to the State Government for the above schemes. The schemes are in progress and benefits are yet to accrue from these schemes.

(b) According to the existing procedure, flood control schemes costing less than Rs. 25 lakhs are approved by the State Government themselves on the recommendation of the State Technical Advisory Committee and the State Flood Control Board. Schemes costing between Rs. 25 lakhs and Rs. 1 crore are approved by the Planning Commission after examination by Central Water and Power Commission on proforma basis. Schemes costing more than Rs. 1 crore are examined in detail in the Central Water and Power Commission and considered by the Technical Advisory Committee of the Planning Commission before they are approved by the Planning Commission

for implementation. A statement giving the details of the flood control schemes costing more than Rs. 25 lakhs each received from the Government of West Bengal during the last three years for approval by the Centre is laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-4866/73].

#### Drainage channel project of "Basira Bil" on Murshidabad-Birbhani border area

8011. SHRI GADADHAR SAHA: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the drainage channel project of "Basira Bil" on Murshidabad Birbhani border area has been included in the approved flood control project;

(b) if so, the progress made on the project so far; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

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

(a) to (c). The "Basira Bil" drainage project has not been included in the approved list of schemes in the flood control sector of the Fourth Plan of West Bengal. According to the procedure laid down, drainage schemes have to be examined by the Technical Advisory Committee of the State Flood Control Board and approved by competent authority for inclusion in the Plan. The "Basira Bil" scheme has not so far been put up for the consideration of the Technical Advisory Committee of West Bengal State Flood Control Board.

#### Technically Qualified Officers working in Personnel Branches on Northern Railway

8012. SHRI LALJI BHAI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain technically qualified officers are working in the Personnel Branches over Northern Railway for the last so many years;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;