

Irrigation of Land in U.P. and Maharashtra

343. SHRI CHANDRA BHAL MANI TIWARI: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of irrigation area of cultivable land in Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra at present; and

(b) the steps being taken by Government to improve the irrigation facilities in U.P.?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA): (a) At present, the irrigation in Uttar Pradesh is about 34 per cent of the gross cropped area. But this includes extensive areas where the irrigation is of a protective nature and water allowances are very inadequate. Further, large areas under bundies are also included in the reported irrigated figures;

The irrigation in Maharashtra is about 10 per cent of the gross cropped area, which could rise to about 16 per cent when all the projects under construction at present are completed.

(b) A number of major irrigation projects like the Ramganga, Gandak and Sarda Sahayak are under construction and on their completion large additional acreage of about 2.7 million ha. will come under irrigation, in addition to stabilising and improving irrigation in existing areas. A number of new major projects are also proposed to be taken up and it is proposed to give high priority to irrigation in the Fifth Plan programmes of the State.

Loss of Man-Hours and Monetary Loss to Railways from 1st January to 30th June, 1973 due to Strikes etc.

344. SHRI CHANDRA BHAL MANI TIWARI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the total loss of man-hours and also monetary loss as a result of lock-outs, strikes and work-to-rule during the period from 1st January, 1973 to 30th June, 1973 in each Zonal Railway; and

(b) whether Government propose to implement radical reforms to discourage this tendency?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha early.

(b) The legitimate demands of all categories of staff, are continually raised, considered and solved through various tiers of the collective bargaining machinery—the Permanent Negotiating Machinery and the Joint Consultative Machinery—which have been functioning constitutionally and purposefully over a long period of time. Individual representations received are also examined and settled by the Administration.

The organs and channels available for redressal of grievances and settlement of issues have been, in the ultimate analysis reasonably successful in the upkeep of industrial peace on the railways.

Streamlining of TA Units in view of growing Tendency among Railway Employees to resort to strike

345. SHRI CHANDRA BHAL MANI TIWARI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to expand and streamline the TA units in view of the growing tendency among the Railway employees to resort to illegal strikes; and

(b) if so, the main features of the proposal?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) No proposal is presently under consideration for expanding or streamlining the Railway T.A. Units but such a proposal is not ruled out for future consideration.

(b) Does not arise.

Conversion of Barabanki-Muzaffarpur Metre Gauge line into Broad gauge

346. SHRI CHANDRA BHAL MANI TIWARI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state: