

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) According to the existing procedure, to the extent possible, surplus railway land in between stations is handed over to the State Government for its eventual licensing for Grow More Food purposes. Only such of the land which the State Government have not taken over, is licensed directly by the Railway Administration initially for a term of one or two years for cultivation purposes which can be renewed to the original licensee, if he has abided by the terms of licence and after taking into consideration the tenancy law of the State Government concerned. No drawbacks have been found in the existing procedure.

(b) No.

(c) Does not arise in view of reply to part (a) above.

Financial outlay sought by Bihar for construction of Western Kosi Canal

257. SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the latest position with regard to the financial outlays sought by Bihar Government and approved or to be approved by the Centre for constructing the Western Kosi Canal during the current and coming financial year and for the whole Fifth Plan period;

(b) whether it is proposed to examine the construction of Dam of Kamala near Jai Nagar at the crossing point of Western Kosi canal to do away with the problem of silting in the canals and ending the Kamala floods by utilising the available Kamala waters for feeding the Western Kosi canal system; and

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

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PARSAD): (a) The estimated cost of the Western Kosi Canal is Rs. 41.62 crores. The Government of Bihar have stated that the provision for the Western Kosi Canal in the State Plan for 1973-74 is Rs. 150 lakhs. In addition, the Government of India have agreed to provide Rs. 250 lakhs as special assistance outside the State Plan ceiling to Bihar Government to meet the cost of construction of the portion of the Western Kosi Canal lying in Nepal.

The State Government have intimated that a provision of Rs. 6 crores has been made for the financial year 1974-75. A provision of Rs. 33.80 crores has been proposed by the State in the Fifth Plan. The Fifth Plan has not yet been finalised.

(b and c). The Government of Bihar have no such proposal under their consideration. No suitable dam site has been located in the Indian territory.

The feasibility of providing a weir for serving as a level crossing at the point where the Western Kosi Canal crosses the Kamala river is under the examination of the State Government.

Extension of Broad Gauge lines from Samastipur to Raxaul via Darbhanga and Muzaffarpur via Motihari

258. SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal for the extension of the broad gauge lines from Samastipur to Raxaul via Darbhanga and from Muzaffarpur via Motihari has been finalised;

(b) if so, the broad outlines thereof; and if not, the causes of delay; and