

Construction of Multi-purpose Dam and Hydrel Project on River Kosi

5369. SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of acute power shortage, silting of Kosi canal and overflowing of areas within embankments, it is proposed to examine the feasibility of constructing a Multi-purpose Dam and Hydrel Project on river Kosi near Barahkshetra and approach the Government of Nepal for the same; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD): (a) and (b). The Technical Committee appointed by the Govt. of India to go into the question of siltation of the Eastern Kosi Canal has, in its report of December, 1973, while recommending the various remedial measures for the silt problem of the canal, also suggested that high dam for silt storage in the upper reaches of the Kosi river may be investigated and has further stated that for any such high dam, the life of the dam, the regime of the river between the dam and the Kosi Barrage, and between the flood embankment upstream and down-stream of the barrage would have to be carefully considered. The report of the Committee has been forwarded to the Government of Bihar for necessary action.

Assistance to Bihar by R.E.C.

5370. SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has stopped further grants to Bihar under the Rural Electrification Programme;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the total allocations made and utilised by Bihar during the last three years?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) and (b). Grants are not given for the Rural Electrification Programme. The Rural Electrification Corporation provides loan assistance, in addition to funds provided in the State plan. The Rural Electrification Corporation has not stopped providing loans to Bihar

(c) The details of loan sanctioned by Rural Electrification Corporation and the amount disbursed to the Bihar State Electricity Board during the last three years are given below:—

Year	Sanctioned by R.E.C.	Disbursed to State Electricity Board
(Rupees in lakhs.)		
1971-72 .	618.45	379.19
1972-73 . .	809.51	404.74
1973-74 . .	772.02	305.40

Per Capita Availability and Consumption of Power in Bihar

5371. SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the latest per capita availability and consumption of power for the whole country, for North Bihar and the rest of Bihar respectively; and

(b) what special efforts are being made to bring North Bihar to the level of the rest of Bihar and Bihar as a whole to the All India level?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD): (a) and (b). The latest