

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD):** (a) No, Sir. Several States have a lower percentage of irrigated area to cropped area, than Gujarat.

(b) The Fifth Plan of the State has yet to be finalised. The major and medium irrigation projects with an irrigation potential of 8.21 lakh hec. are under construction in Gujarat, and it is tentatively anticipated that irrigation potential, as a percentage of cropped area would increase from 19 per cent to 26.3 per cent by the end of the Fifth Plan.

#### Irrigation and Power Projects in Gujarat

9368. **SHRI VEKARIA:**

**SHRI ARVIND M. PATEL:**

Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the progress of irrigation and power projects in Gujarat has been rather slow;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps being taken to accelerate the pace of progress of those projects?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD):** (a) to (c). Of the 11 major and 59 medium irrigation schemes taken up in Gujarat during the Plan periods, work on 3 major and 44 medium irrigation schemes has been completed and 2 major schemes are nearing completion. The overall progress on irrigation projects is thus satisfactory. The delay in more expeditious completion is due to the inability of the State to provide adequate funds. The State Government propose to complete all spill-over schemes in the Fifth Plan.

Of the Four Power generation schemes taken up in the Fourth Plan in Gujarat the work on two schemes has been completed. The delay has occurred mainly in the completion of the Ukai Hydro-Electric Project. This is due, mainly, to the delays in the supply of the generating plant and equipment by the Bharat Heavy Electrical Limited and to a small extent to an accident at the power house. Every effort is being made to expedite the supply of plant and equipment. The first set is expected to be commissioned shortly and others will follow in quick succession.

#### Conversion of Metro Gauge lines in Saurashtra Region into Broad Gauge on Western Railway

9369. **SHRI VEKARIA:**  
**SHRI ARVIND M. PATEL:**

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any time-bound programme has been formulated for converting metre gauge lines into broad gauge in Saurashtra Region on Western Railway; and

(b) if so, the salient features thereof and the outlay involved?

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI):** (a) and (b). At present conversion of 557 kms. long metre gauge section between Viramgam-Okha and Kanalus-Porbandar (including Kanalus-Sika and Jamnagar-Bedi branch lines), passing through Saurashtra region of Gujarat, sanctioned in December, 1971, at an estimated cost of Rs. 42.92 crores, is in progress. This work is likely to be completed by December, 1977.

Survey have also been carried out for the conversion of Gandhidham-Bhuj metre gauge section into broad gauge in Kutch/Saurashtra area of Gujarat and the reports are under examination.