

extraneous factors including a series of staff agitation on the Railways.

**Silting problem in Kosi Barrage**

7782. SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 4605 on the 26th March 1974 regarding silting problem in Kosi Barrage and state:

(a) whether to do away with the problem of silting in the Eastern and also in the proposed Western Kosi Canal Project any permanent solution has been attempted; and

(b) if so, the main features thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD): (a) and (b). The Technical Committee appointed by the Government of India to go into the question of siltation of the Eastern Kosi Canal has, in its report of December, 1973, suggested the following long term measures:—

- (1) Measures for controlling sediment yield and its transport and deposition below Chatra gorge are required to be conceived and implemented.
- (2) A high dam for silt storage in the upper reaches of the Kosi river may be investigated. 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.
- (3) The investigations for provision of check dams in the Tamur and Arun, the two tributaries of the Kosi contributing the maximum quantity of coarse silt, may be taken up in addition extensive

soil conservation measures in the catchment of these tributaries may also be taken up with the concurrence of His Majesty's Government of Nepal.

According to the Committee, these measures will considerably reduce the sediment load in the Kosi river.

The report of the Committee has been forwarded to the Government of Bihar who are taking further necessary action.

**Decline in Prices of Petroleum Products in International Market**

7783. SHRI C. K. CHANDRAPPAN: SHRI G. P. YADAV:

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prices of petrol and petroleum products have registered an appreciable fall in the international market in the past one month;

(b) if so, the facts thereof;

(c) whether this fall in the prices of oil in the world will have any effect on our oil prices;

(d) whether Government have taken any decision to reduce the oil prices in India; and

(e) if so, the broad features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN): (a) and (b). Prices of refined petroleum products increased steeply from October '73 and remained so until January, 1974. Since then there has been some reduction in the prices of refined products.

(c) to (e). There is no proposal at present to decrease the prices of petroleum products in India, which are based on the import price of crude oil. The prices at which crude oil is available for imports have not come down.