

(a) the amount of bad debt in marketing Division of Fertilizer Corporation of India during 1972-73;

(b) the amount of bad debt in area covered in Gujarat during 1972-73;

(c) whether C.B.I. made any investigation into the matter; and

(d) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN): (a) to (d). The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Shortage of Irrigation Water in Saurashtra Region of Gujarat

4603. SHRI ARVIND M. PATEL:
SHRI D. P. JADEJA:

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

(a) whether there is a great fear of shortage of irrigation water in Saurashtra Region during the next three to four months; and

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to sanction extra help to Gujarat State for providing water facilities?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD): (a) and (b). The Government of Gujarat have reported that owing to low rainfall, the replenishment in the reservoirs in the Saurashtra region was generally low. The kharif and rabi irrigation was planned according to the availability of water, after reserving the water supply needs of important towns and cities facing acute shortage of drinking water. The State Government have indicated that in these circumstances, no hot weather irrigation is practicable.

Supply of wagons to Industries in Public Sector

4604. SHRI M. KATHAMUTHU:
Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the supply of wagons to public sector is less than that to the industries in private sector; and

(b) if so, the reasons and broad outlines thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) and (b). Supply of wagons is done to different industries and other users on the basis of seniority of demand, relevant priority to which such demands belongs and the total number of wagons asked for by them. No separate data is, however, maintained indicating the number of wagons supplied to industries in private and public sector.

Silting Problem of Kosi Barrage

4605. SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA:
SHRI YAMUNA PRASAD MAN-
DAL:

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

(a) whether silting problem of Kosi Barrage is causing hindrance of the proper functioning of the canal systems;

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take in this regard; and

(c) how much Government have spent so far in desilting of Kosi Barrage?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD): (a). Some difficulties are experienced on the Eastern Kosi Canal system due to the problem of siltation.

(b). The Government of Bihar have taken many measures to overcome the problem. A careful watch is also being kept on the canal by the State Engineers.

The principal measures taken/contemplated are:

- (i) Desilting of the canal, as and when necessary, is done. Suction dredgers have also been obtained to have the desilting work done continuously.
- (ii) The canal is closed when the sediment concentration at the head regulator is high (exceeding 3,000 parts/million).
- (iii) A silt objector has been commissioned in 1971 to exclude a portion of the silt entering the main canal.
- (iv) Improvements have been effected in the Barrage regulation schedule.
- (v) Barrage upstream guide bund has been extended. This will improve sediment exclusion.
- (vi) Proposals for a second silt ejector/silting basin are under examination.

It is observed that a result of improvements undertaken, the silt deposit in the canal has now come down in recent years.

A Technical Committee of experts headed by Shri Y. K. Murthy, Acting Chairman, Central Water and Power Commission, suggested in December, 1973, various short-term and long-term remedial measures to overcome the silting problem of the Kosi Canal. These are under consideration of the State Government for implementation.

(c) The Government of Bihar have reported that upto 1973 an expenditure of Rs. 1.3 crore was incurred for desilting of the Kosi Canal. No expenditure has been incurred in desilting Kosi Barrage.

Fixing of reasonable rate of commission for M/s. A. H. Wheelers

4606. SHRI S. C. SAMANTA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether M/s. A. H. Wheelers are charging exorbitant rates of Commission for selling books, magazines and Railways time tables from private publishers;

(b) the reasons why Government are not fixing reasonable rates of commission;

(c) the reasons why A. H. Wheelers are enjoying almost position of monopoly on a large number of Railway platforms; and

(d) by what time things are likely to improve?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI QURESHI): (a) and (b). Rates of commission for selling books are settled on the basis of mutual agreements between the publishers and M/s. A. H. Wheeler & Co. Hence, the Government does not come into the picture.

(c) M/s. A. H. Wheeler & Co. do not have a monopoly. A large number of contractors other than M/s. Wheelers run bookstalls at a number of railway stations. Even at some of the stations where M/s. Wheeler & Co. have stalls, other book-sellers like Gita Press and Sarvodaya are functioning.

(b) Things are by and large working satisfactorily at present. However, the policy now being followed is to award bookstall contracts at (i) stations having no bookstalls at present, (ii) at new stations which may be opened in future and where bookstalls may be considered necessary, and (iii) at stations where vacancies might arise in future to co-operatives/registered Associations Partnership enterprises formed by unemployed graduates.

Additional Assistance to Karnataka for Irrigation and Power

4607. SHRI K. MALLANNA: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Karnataka Government and Central Government have agreed regarding the State's additional resources