

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