

Provisions for Western Kosi, Gandak and Rajasthan Canal projects for Fifth Plan

3767. SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether full financial provisions are being made in the Fifth Plan for the completion of the Western Kosi, Gandak and Rajasthan Canal projects to ensure their completion by the end of the Fifth Plan; and

(b) if so, the main features thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD): (a) and (b). Full provision has been proposed for completing the Gandak Project in the draft Fifth Plan. An outlay of Rs. 33 80 crores has been proposed for the Western Kosi Canal Project which will be sufficient to substantially complete the project in the Fifth Plan. The proposed outlay for the Rajasthan Canal Project (Stage I and Stage II) is Rs. 70 crores in the Fifth Plan against the spillover of cost of Rs. 176 crores.

Construction of sluice gate-cum-bridge between Hariharpur and Kaligaon

3768. SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 4712 on the 26th March, 1974 regarding construction of sluice gate-cum-bridge over river Khiror in Bihar and state:

(a) whether in view of the findings of the hydrological observations the proposals for the construction of sluice gate-cum-bridge between Hariharpur and Kaligaon and at Muraittha across river been accepted for implementation; and

(b) if so, the main features thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI SUDDHESHWAR PRASAD): (a) and (b). The State Government of Bihar have reported that further discharge data is required to be collected during the next two years for the formulation of the scheme.

Increase in Unemployment

3769. SHRI D. D. DESAI: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether unemployment is increasing at a galloping pace in the country;

(b) if so, whether the number of unemployed has crossed the 8 million mark till June, 1974;

(c) whether there has been an increase of 10 lakhs unemployed persons during the last year; and

(d) if so, concrete steps proposed to be taken in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI MOHAN DHARIA): (a) to (c). According to the live register figures of the employment exchanges, there were 83,53,840 registered job seekers in the country as on 30th June, 1974. This figure is, however, provisional. The corresponding figures for 30th June, 1973 was 75,95,961 which shows an increase of 7,57,879 during the year ending 30th June, 1974.

(d) Care has been taken in the Draft Fifth Five Year Plan to ensure that adequate employment opportunities arise in various fields like agriculture, major and medium irrigation, soil conservation as well as in the corporate and unorganised sectors and in territory activities and allied services trade and commerce, etc. as well as in social services. Benefits from the Drought-Prone Areas Programme, Small and Marginal Farmers Agency and Command Area Development projects are likely to cover 26 million