

Flood Control in Tripura

1437. **Shri Dasaratha Deb:** Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether the flood protective measures at Khamabil, in Kailashahar Sub-Division, Tripura have been undertaken;

(b) if so, the progress thereof; and

(c) estimated amount of expenditure involved?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Irrigation and Power (Shri Alagesan): (a) There is no work named as Khamabil in Kailashahar Sub-Division. There is, however, one work by name Khowra Beel Drainage scheme at Kailashahar which is in progress.

(b) and (c). The Khowra Beel Drainage Scheme consists of two phases. Phase I, which envisages excavation of drainage channel, is estimated to cost Rs. 2,12,000/-. This Phase has almost been completed by the Tripura Administration except for some drainage culverts and raising of banks on some stretches. Phase II of scheme, which envisages provision of an embankment and sluice gate, is under technical examination. It will be taken up if it is found necessary and economically feasible.

Fertility of Indian Soils

1438. **Shri Vishram Prasad:** Will the Minister of Food and Agriculture be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage of deficit in the Indian soil in respect of (i) Nitrogen (ii) Phosphorous and (iii) Potash; and

(b) what efforts are being made to bring Indian soils at par with other soils to increase its fertility?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Food and Agriculture (Dr. Ram Subhag Singh): (a) It is difficult to indicate the percentage of deficits in the Indian soils in respect of (i)

Nitrogen, (ii) Phosphorous and (iii) Potash as the requirements of these nutrients vary from crop to crop. It is also difficult to lay down the standard contents in respect of the three nutrients for Indian soils and to work out percentage deficits therefrom.

Data available from the soil testing survey laboratories in the country has, however, revealed that (i) more than 80% of the soil samples tested were deficient in Nitrogen, (ii) 60% to 75% of the samples tested were deficient in available Phosphorous and (iii) 25% to 30% were low in available Potash supplies.

(b) The following steps are being taken to increase the fertility of Indian soils:—

(i) Suitable fertilizer doses are recommended on the basis of soil tests and fertilizer experiments.

(ii) One lakh fertilizer demonstrations are laid out every year in different parts of the country under the Fertilizer Demonstration Scheme.

(iii) It is planned to increase fertilizer supplies by the end of the Third Five Year Plan in 1965-66 as detailed below:—

Nitrogen (N)—1.0 Million Tons.

Phosphorous (P₂O₅)—0.4 Million Tons.

Potash (K₂O)—0.2 Million Tons.

(iv) Forty-one million acres are planned to be green-manured in the Third Plan period.

(v) Eleven million acres are expected to be covered by soil conservation practices in the Third Plan period.

The above measures, in addition to the increased use of compost, are designed to improve the fertility status of Indian soils.