

Annual Unproductive Expenditure and Tax Evasion

427. Shri S. C. Jha: Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether any calculation has been made of the annual unproductive expenditure and annual tax evasion by the higher income groups in the country; and

(b) if so, the steps, proposed to be taken to tackle these problems?

The Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance (Shri Morarji Desai): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise. However, such steps as are available in law for checking tax evasion by the higher income groups are being taken.

Kamla-Balan Embankment

428. Shri S. C. Jha: Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) the effective measures going to be taken during this year to stop the recurrence of breaches in the Kamla-Balan Embankment near Janjharpur in Bihar;

(b) the stage at which the work on the Western Kosi Canal stands at present; and

(c) when the actual digging work of the Canal will start?

The Minister of Irrigation and Power (Dr. K. L. Rao): (a) The following two measures are being taken:

(i) Three miles length of the embankment above Janjharpur Railway Line are being widened and raised to 5½' above the high Flood level of 1966 by the State Government, and

(ii) The Railway authorities are excavating the river bed below bridge No. 88 and are also removing obstructions both upstream and downstream of the Railway bridge.

(b) and (c). On receipt of permission from His Majesty's Government of Nepal, early in January 1967, surveys and investigations in Nepal territory are in progress. These are expected to be completed by February 1968. The actual digging of the Canal will be started soon thereafter.

Industrial Development of North Bihar

429. Shri S. C. Jha: Will the Minister of Planning be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken and the progress made in the industrial development of North Bihar during the last three Plans;

(b) the steps being outlined for the further industrial development of North Bihar during the Fourth Five Year Plan period; and

(c) whether Government propose to start any fruit packing, specially mango and Lichi packing industry in North Bihar?

The Minister of Planning, Petroleum and Chemicals and Social Welfare (Shri Asoka Mehta): (a) During this period, an oil Refinery at Barauni with a capacity of 2 million tonnes was set up in the public sector. In the private sector, expansion and modernisation of some of the sugar factories was carried out. In addition, two paper factories were also taken up.

(b) It is proposed to expand the capacity of the Barauni Oil Refinery from 2 to 3.0 million tonnes. It is also proposed to set up a fertiliser factory at Barauni with a capacity of 152,000 tonnes of nitrogen. It is difficult to indicate at this stage the private sector projects that are likely to be set up in North Bihar area during the Fourth Plan period.

(c) Certain proposals are under the consideration of the State Government for the establishment of fruit preservation units in North Bihar.