

(d) the steps taken to expedite its completion and to meet the shortage of funds and foreign exchange components required for its completion?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (DR. K. L. RAO): (a) The total estimated cost of the Gandak Project is 141.71 crores. An expenditure of Rs. 40.85 crores was incurred on the Project upto July, 1967.

(b) and (c) The project has been progressing more or less according to schedule. But due to shortage of funds its final completion is likely to be delayed.

(d) Within the present constraint of resources financial assistance to the extent possible has been afforded to the State Government for financing the Project. In view of shortage of funds the construction work is being suitably phased. No request for foreign exchange for importing equipments for the project is pending with the Central Government.

Surplus Engineers under W. H. & S. Ministry

971. **SHRI SITARAM KESRI:** Will the Minister of WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been surplus technical staff in some Departments of his Ministry;

(b) the total number of technical personnel employed under his Ministry at present and whether it is proposed to retrench the surplus staff, if any;

(c) whether Government propose to provide alternative jobs to the retrenched personnel as also to provide jobs to the fresh Graduates and Diploma Holders; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY (SHRI IQBAL SINGH): (a) to (d). The information is being collected and will be placed

on the Table of the House in due course.

Appointment of Taxation Enquiry Commission

972. **SHRI YOGENDRA SHARMA:**
SHRI N. K. P. SALVE:
SHRI R. BARUA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the seminar on taxation held recently in Delhi has recommended the appointment of a Tax Enquiry Commission for a fresh comprehensive inquiry into the basic tax policies and the incidence of tax under the various tax statutes; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MORARJI DESAI): (a) According to Press Reports, the seminar on taxation which was organised by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in January, 1967, is reported to have recommended the appointment of a Taxation Enquiry Commission. However, Government have not so far received any communication from the Institute in this behalf.

(b) The final Report of Shri S. Bhoothalingam on Rationalisation and simplification of Tax Laws has been recently received and is under examination. The Administrative Reforms Commission is also engaged in a study of the measures necessary to rationalise and simplify tax administration and procedures. The necessity for the appointment of a Commission will be examined after the recommendations made by Shri Bhoothalingam and those which may be made by the Administrative Reforms Commission are considered by Government and decisions taken thereon.