

has also recommended that commercial banks should enlarge their credit facilities for agriculture.

#### Bagmari Syphon Works

3847. SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the present progress of the Bagmari Syphon works awarded to a firm at additional cost in preference to the lowest bidder on the ground of reliability and early completion of the same; and

(b) whether the progress made so far conforms to the schedule stipulated at the time of award of this contract ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER ( SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD ) : (a) Some earthwork excavation and sinking of wells for the foundation of the structure have been done.

(b) the progress of work had conformed to the stipulated schedule at the time of award of the contract; but recently it has been decided to defer the work on this structure by one working season in the interest of the project work as a whole.

#### Award of Contract for R. C. Regulator across Bhagirathi River

3848. SHRI LATAFAT ALI KHAN: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the contract for R. C. Regulator across the Bhagirathi River on the left afflux was awarded to the lowest bidder ;

(b) if so, the previous experience of the firm; and

(c) the reasons as to why the principle followed in this case could not be followed in cases of award of contracts for the Bagmari Syphon and the Jangipur barrage ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER ( SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD ) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The firm carried out various works *i. e.* Earthwork, Bridge work, Buildings work and other miscellaneous works in connection with doubling of Railway line under South Eastern Railway.

(c) There has been no deviation from the principles followed in the award of work on the Bagmari Syphon and the Jangipur Barrage.

#### Payment to Bechtel for laying down Haldia-Barauni Pipeline

3849. SHRI CHANDRIKA PRASAD : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Batchel has been paid Rs. 16 lakhs as consultant fee for laying down Haldia-Barauni Pipeline Refinery ;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Indian Oil Corporation have paid the full amount of income-tax on this amount to Government without the sanction of Government or Board of Directors ;

(c) whether it is further a fact that this was done at the time when the present Secretary of the Ministry of Petroleum and Chemicals was the Managing Director of the Pipelines Division ; and

(d) the reasons for keeping such things in dark for such a long time ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI RAGHURAMIAH) : (a) Bechtel were paid Rs. 86.37 lakhs as fees and reimbursable costs for supervision of the work of design, engineering and construction of the Haldia-Barauni-Kanpur pipeline project, which was constructed by SNAM of Italy.

(b) No, Sir.