

The Mahanadi river sands are long known to be gold bearing and planning on small scale has been practised by local people. No economically important yield from the Mahanadi river sand or alluvium is known. The possibility of finding economically workable gold in Mahanadi river bed is reported to be very low.

Narmada Water for Kutch

2367. SHRI S. M. SOLANKI : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Prime Minister during her last visit to Kutch had said that early steps would be taken to make the land of Kutch fertile by harnessing the water of Narmada for the purpose as early as possible ;

(b) whether she had also said that early decision in this regard would be taken within a short period ; and

(c) if so, the reasons for not taking any steps so far in this regard ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD) : (a) and (b). No. However, the Prime Minister made some observations in the Lok Sabha on 28-2-1968, about the possibility of utilising the Narmada waters for the development of the Rann of Kutch.

(c) The question can be considered further after the dispute regarding the allocation of Narmada waters is resolved.

"Hardship Faced by Tobacco Growers of North Gujarat"

2368. SHRI S. M. SOLANKI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that due to the change in tariff classification by the Finance Act of 1968, duty has not been paid on the whole leaf tobacco in the North Gujarat and due to that the agriculturists are not in a position to sell their produce ;

(b) whether it is a fact that the whole leaf tobacco cannot be used in Bidis and due to that the agriculturists are put to hardship ; and

(c) if so, the steps which Government propose to take to remove these difficulties of agriculturists of North Gujarat ?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MORARJI DESAI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

National Buildings Construction Corporation Limited

2369. SHRI D. N. PATODIA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING AND WORKS, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Building Construction Corporation continue to suffer losses ;

(b) if so, the loss suffered during the year 1968 and whether Government have analysed the causes for the losses ; and

(c) the remedial measures taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY PLANNING, AND WORKS, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI K. K. SHAH) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). During the year ending 31st March, 1968, the Corporation suffered a loss of Rs. 4.52 lakhs on the works undertaken by it. The question of eliminating losses is constantly under review and as a result of the steps taken by the Corporation, the percentages of losses to turnover has steadily come down from 6.1 in 1964-65, to 1.8 during 1967-68. Government of India have also recently set up a Committee consisting of a Joint Secretary of the Department of Works, Housing and Urban Development, and the Advisers (Finance) and (Construction) of the Bureau of Public Enterprises to review the past performance of the Corporation, examine its capital structure its field organisation, methods of working etc. and recommend measures to improve its working. The report of the Committee is awaited,