

Government is thinking of starting the work on the irrigation projects which are lying pending due to lack of funds?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD): (a) and (b). The Draft Fourth Plan document has mentioned the importance of the construction of all projects for utilisation of surface waters, within about 20 years.

During the Fourth Plan period itself, priority has been given to providing the maximum possible allocations considered essential for continuing schemes on which appreciable progress has already been made.

No proposal to divert the resources of nationalised banks for undertaking new major and medium irrigation projects is under consideration.

Material purchased for Kosi Canal Project

2-76. SHRI BHOGEN DRA JHA: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Kosi Project Department purchased galvanised wire during 1968-69 and in the current year for protecting Kosi areas from floods;

(b) whether there has been bungling in purchase of galvanised wire;

(c) if so, whether any enquiry has been made; and

(d) if so, the details and action taken thereon?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD): (a) to (d). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Atomic Power Station in North Bihar

2477. SHRI BHOGEN DRA JHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether in view of the total absence of coal and inadequacy of the availability of other sources of power, it is being considered

to instal an Atomic Plant in North Bihar; and

(b) if not, reasons therefor?

THE PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER OF FINANCE, MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND THE MINISTER OF PLANNING (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI): (a) and (b). No, Sir. As North Bihar is close to coal fields, conventional coal fired stations would be more economical.

Chinese and Pakistani Forces Activities on Indian Borders

2478. SHRI PREM CHAND VERMA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether he is aware of the activities of Pakistani and Chinese Forces on the borders of the country, if so, what are the details;

(b) the number of times these countries attacked the borders of India during the period 1st April, 1969 to 31st January, 1970 and which are the places of attack and how much loss India suffered in these attacks; and

(c) what effective steps have been taken by Government to fortify the Borders of the country and what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE AND STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING (SHRI SWARAN SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. The House has been kept informed from time to time of the pattern of Chinese and Pakistani military activities across the border/Cease Fire Line.

(b) During the period 1st April, 1969 to 31st January, 1970, there was one case of firing by the Chinese near the Lipu Lekh Pass on the UP-Tibet border on 10th July, 1969, the details of which were given to the House in reply to Unstarred Question No. 1582 on 30th July, 1969. During the same period, there were 24 cases of firing by Pakistanis from across the border/Cease Fire Line. There were no casualties as a result of these incidents.

(c) Our security forces continue to be vigilant on the border/Cease Fire Line. Appropriate action has also been taken, wherever necessary, to reinforce our security measures