

Construction of Western Kosi Canals Scheme

584. SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether concurrence of the Government of Nepal with regard to the immediate construction of the Western Kosi Canals Scheme has been secured ;

(b) if not, the causes for delay and Government's reaction thereon ;

(c) whether it is being proposed to make provision for the entire cost of Rs. 20 crores in the Fourth Five Year Plan for the completion of the Western Kosi Canals Scheme or an alternative Pilot Boring Scheme for its command area ; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD) : (a) and (b). Approval of His Majesty's Government of Nepal is still awaited. The matter is being pursued at the highest level.

(c) and (d). The details of the final Fourth Plan for Bihar have not yet been finalised.

Extension of Kamala Embankments Beyond Jai Nagar (Bihar)

585. SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the proposal for extending the Kamala Embankments beyond Jai Nagar (Bihar) upto Sisapani in Nepal is pending approval of the Central Water and Power Commission since long ;

(b) if so, the reasons for the delay ; and

(c) the steps being taken to expedite the same ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD) : (a) to (c). The Project Report is yet to be finalised by the State Government.

Elevating Indian Mission in Democratic Republic of Vietnam

586. SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken any decision to elevate its relations with the Democratic Republic of Vietnam to full ambassadorial level ;

(b) if not, the reasons for the delay ;

(c) whether any decision has been or is being taken to recognise the Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Vietnam ; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI SURENDRA PAL SINGH) : (a) and (b). The Government are still considering how best expression can be given to the desire in the two countries to strengthen their relations.

(c) and (d). In view of the fluid situation in South Vietnam and India's position on the International Control Commission, among other factors, the Government are not at present considering the recognition of the Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Vietnam.

Border Roads Development Board

588. SHRI GADILINGANA GOWD : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Border Roads Development Board had taken some decisions to step up its construction programmes in certain strategic areas ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) the approximate cost involved in the construction work, area-wise ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE AND STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING (SHRI SWARAN SINGH) : (a) to (c). The programme of construction and priorities are reviewed periodically and decisions are taken keeping in view the strategic plans and needs of development. A review of the programme is in progress. The results of this review cannot be anticipated at this stage.