

(f) The project scheduled to be completed by 2000 AD. However, completion of the project is dependent on the availability of funds and pari-passu implementation of Resettlement & Rehabilitation measures of Project Affected Families by the party States as per the Narmada Water Disputes Tribunal (N'WDT) Award.

[Translation]

Disputed Irrigation Projects

*209. DR. MADAN PRASAD JAISWAL :
SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that water sharing disputes are going on among various States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the efforts being made by the Union Government to resolve the disputes amicably and expeditiously?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Central Government endeavours to resolve inter-State water related disputes by encouraging negotiations, constituting Boards for development and regulation of Inter-State Rivers/River Valleys. Tribunals for adjudication of water disputes are set up on the request of any of the party States if the water disputes are not resolved otherwise.

Tribunals have been set up for adjudication of Godavari, Krishna, Narmada, Ravi-Beas and Cauvery Water Disputes. First three Tribunals have already given their final awards.

Further, the Ministry of Water Resources has also set up a Standing Committee under the National Water Resources Council for resolving inter-State issues in water resources.

Soil Erosion by Ganga

*210. SHRI HIRA LAL ROY :
KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether several districts of Bihar and West Bengal are adversely affected due to soil erosion by the rivers of Ghaghra, Padma and Ganga;

(b) if so, whether any expert Committee has been set up by the Planning Commission to tackle the problem;

(c) whether measures recommended by the Committee are being implemented;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the time by which the problem of soil erosion is likely to be controlled?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) Yes Sir. Severe bank erosion by the river Ganga, called Padma in Bangladesh has affected several areas in the districts of Malda and Murshidabad in West Bengal. Bank erosion by river Ganga has also affected the districts of Buxar, Chhapra, Begusarai and Bhagalpur in Bihar. This phenomenon has also been observed at some reaches along the left bank of river Ghaghra in Bihar State.

(b) to (d) To examine the bank erosion problem of the river Ganga/Padma in the districts of Malda and Murshidabad in West Bengal. Planning Commission constituted an Experts' Committee in September, 1996 which submitted its report in December, 1996, recommending short term and long term measures, costing Rs. 315 crore and Rs. 612 crore respectively for tackling the erosion problem in various reaches lying upstream and downstream of the Farakka Barrage in the districts of Malda and Murshidabad. The long and short term measures were prioritised and the schemes were allocated between the Centre and the Government of West Bengal based on their respective jurisdiction for providing funds by the Planning Commission, and their execution subsequently.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) River behaviour and its management for large rivers like Ganga flowing through alluvial plains are not easily amenable for accurate predictions, and undertaking measures to remedy the problem due to bank erosion. Thus it is difficult to completely eliminate or to fix a definite time frame towards controlling bank erosion in such a large river.

Target and Production of Wheat

*211. SHRI SATNAM SINGH KAINTH :
SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SAHU :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether production of wheat this year is less than the targets fixed;

(b) the quantum of wheat estimated to be produced and the actual production thereof;

(c) the action being taken by the Government to meet the shortage of wheat;

(d) the impact of shortfall on wheat prices; and