

### Assessment of Water Resources

\*701. SHRI P. GANGADEB: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether quantitative assessment of available water resources has been made;

(b) whether studies by various agencies have yielded considerable data; and

(c) if so, the main features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI K. C. PANT):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The studies carried out by various agencies place the total average surface water resources of the country between 1673 thousand million cubic meters to 1881 thousand million cubic meters and the ground water resources 424 thousand million cubic meters. The utilisable surface and groundwater resources have been assessed by the Irrigation Commission (1972) as 870 thousand million cubic meters.

### Clearance of Dhanai Irrigation Project in Orissa

\*702. SHRI D. K. PANDA: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Second stage of the Dhanai Irrigation Project in Ganjam District in Orissa has been given clearance by the Central Water and Power Commission;

(b) if so, whether the same is being included in the Fifth Five Year Plan; and

(c) when the work is likely to be taken up?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) and (b). The project report on the Second Stage of the Dhanai Irrigation

Scheme has not so far been submitted by the Government of Orissa to the Central Water and Power Commission. The State Government have reported that the project has not been included in the State's Fifth Plan.

(c) Does not arise.

### Target for New Railway Lines in Backward Areas of Orissa.

\*703. SHRI BANAMALI BABU: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have finalised the target of construction of new railway lines in Orissa especially in backward areas during the Fifth Five Year Plan; and

(b) if so the salient features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI L. N. MISHRA): (a) and (b). Railway development is not envisaged on any State-wise or Region-wise concepts but on overall considerations in the National interest. As such targets for construction of new railway lines are not fixed Region-wise or State-wise. However, in July, 1973 construction of 84.31 kms. long Cuttack-Paradeep railway line in Orissa State, has been completed during the Fourth Five Year Plan at an estimated cost of Rs. 10.09 crores.

Taking into consideration the backwardness of Orissa, construction of 176 kms. long Banspani-Jakhapura B. G. Railway line, estimated to cost Rs. 39 crores, is proposed to be taken up during the Fifth Five Year Plan and provision has also been made for the construction of this line in the Railway Budget 1974-75.

In addition, a proposal for the construction of 135.65 kms. long Talcher-Bimlagarh B. G. railway line in Orissa State, at an estimated cost of Rs. 16.79 crores, is under consideration.