

concessions/facilities to be extended to the backward districts in the State.

**Shortage of Wagons for movement of Coal, Tea, and Soda Ash**

\*1257. SHRI SAMAR GUHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether wagon shortage in West Bengal has created a crisis regarding movement of accumulated coal and tea;

(b) whether lack of movement of soda ash from Mithapur has created serious difficulty for production of silicate and soap factories;

(c) whether the West Bengal Government have made frantic appeals to his Ministry for more wagons for facilitating movement of coal, tea and soda ash; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

The MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI HANUMANTHAIYA): (a) There has been some shortfall in wagon supply for coal in West Bengal. Tea traffic was, however, cleared currently.

(b) No Sir. The traffic in soda ash offered at Mithapur factory to destinations in West Bengal was cleared currently.

(c) West Bengal Government had asked for increase in wagon supplies for coal and other commodities like jute, tea, soda ash, etc.

(d) Railways have all the resources to meet the current level of transport demands of West Bengal in full provided the law and order conditions in the State, causing serious hold up of wagons and dislocations in train running, are improved.

**Conversion of Delhi-Ahmedabad Metre Gauge Line into Broad Gauge**

\*1258. SHRI B. N. BHARGAVA: Will the Ministry of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry propose to convert the metre gauge line from Delhi to Ahmedabad into a broad gauge line in view of the heavy traffic on this line;

(b) if so, the likely time by which it will be done; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI HANUMANTHAIYA): (a) to (c) A traffic survey for increasing the line capacity of the Delhi-Ahmedabad metre gauge section is in progress. While examining various alternatives, the survey team will also examine the aspect of converting this section to Broad Gauge. A decision regarding this conversion will be taken when the survey report is received and examined.

**डागमरा बांध के सम्बन्ध में कोसी तकनीकी समिति का प्रतिवेदन**

\* 1259. श्री चिरंजीव झा : क्या सिंचाई और विद्युत मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार का ध्यान बिहार सरकार द्वारा जनवरी, 1971 में नियुक्त विशेषज्ञों की कोसी तकनीकी समिति द्वारा प्रस्तुत किये गये प्रतिवेदन की ओर दिलाया गया है;

(ख) क्या केन्द्रीय जल तथा विद्युत आयोग के चेयरमैन तथा उक्त समिति के एक सदस्य ने प्रत्येक दृष्टिकोण से डागमरा बांध की उपयोगिता के सम्बन्ध में अपने मत व्यक्त किये हैं;

(ग) क्या सरकार ने उक्त समिति के सुझावों तथा केन्द्रीय जल तथा विद्युत आयोग के चेयरमैन और सदस्यों द्वारा की गई टिप्पणियों पर विचार कर लिया है; और

(घ) यदि हां, तो सरकार ने इस संबंध में क्या निर्णय किया है और उसे कब तक कार्य रूप देने का विचार है ?

सिंचाई और विद्युत मंत्री (डा० के० एल० राव) : (क) से (घ). बिहार सरकार द्वारा जनवरी, 1971 में स्थापित कोसी तकनीकी समिति ने अप्रैल, 1971 में बिहार सरकार को प्रस्तुत रिपोर्ट में अन्य बातों के साथ-साथ डागमरा के निकट वर्तमान बराज को अनुप्रवाह दिशा में एक दूसरा बराज बनाने की सिफारिश की है। अध्यक्ष, केन्द्रीय जल और विद्युत आयोग ने जो इस समिति के सदस्य भी हैं, कहा है कि

वे इस बात से सहमत नहीं है कि डगमारा बराज समस्या का मितव्ययी हल हो सकेगा और उन्होंने सुझाव दिया है कि पश्चिमी कोसी नहर या नलकूपों से सिंचाई सुविधाएं तथा बाढ़ सुरक्षा प्रदान करने के वैकल्पिक उपायों को ध्यान में रखते हुए डगमारा बराज पर निर्णय लेने से पहले परियोजना के आर्थिक पक्ष का लेखा-जोखा किया जाए। समिति द्वारा की गई सिफारिशों की जांच हो रही है।

#### Exploitation of Waters of Varakhi River in Mysore

\*1260. SHRI P. R. SHENOI: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the possibility of exploiting the waters of Varakhi River in Mysore State for establishing a hydro-electric project is being investigated for the last several years;

(b) if so, the total amount spent so far for this investigation; and

(c) the reasons for the slow progress made in the investigation ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (DR. K. L. RAO): (a) Yes, Sir. Investigations were commenced in 1961 and completed in 1969 by the State Authorities.

(b) The amount spent on investigation so far is Rs. 20.74 lakhs.

(c) The slow progress was on account of lower priority accorded by the State Government to Varahi Project as compared to the Kalinadi Project. However, the project has been included in the Decade plan 1971-1981.

#### Overbridge at Level Crossing of Tinsukia Railway Station

5288. SHRI ROBIN KAKOTI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representation from various public bodies of Tinsukia Town, Assam for the construction of an overbridge at the level crossing on the eastern side of Tinsukia Railway Station; and

(b) if so, the decision taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI HANUMANTHAIYA): (a) Yes.

(b) The proposal is in preliminary stage of investigation in consultation with the State Government.

#### Expenditure on Anti-Erosion work in Assam

5289. SHRI ROBIN KAKOTI: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount spent to protect various parts of Assam from erosion by Brahmaputra river in 1968, 1969 and 1970; and

(b) the total amount allotted in the Fourth Five Year Plan for the above works ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. N. KUREEL): (a) The amount spent on anti-erosion measures in the Brahmaputra valley is as follows:—

1968-69	Rs. 11.5 lakhs.
1969-70	Rs. 142 lakhs.
1970-71	Rs. 172 lakhs.

(b) The provision for anti-erosion measures in the Brahmaputra valley during Fourth Five Year Plan is Rs. 462 lakhs out of the total provision for flood control of Rs. 26.6 crores.

#### Expenditure on Anti-Erosion Work in Dibrugarh

5290. SHRI ROBIN KAKOTI: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount spent up to the 31st March, 1971 for protection of Dibrugarh town from erosion by Brahmaputra river; and

(b) the amount required for further protection works to save Dibrugarh town from erosion by the Brahmaputra river?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. N. KUREEL): (a) The total expenditure up to March, 1971 on the scheme for protection of Dibrugarh town was Rs. 4.24 crores. In addition an amount