

the Canton Fair and inviting China to participate in the Asian Trade Fair in New Delhi next year.

**Implementation of Recommendations
of Conference of State Ministers
of Irrigation and Power**

*352. SHRI R.P. ULAGANAMBI: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state the steps taken by Government to implement the recommendations made by the Fifth Conference of State Ministers of Irrigation and Power held at Ootacamund on the 24th and 25th September, 1970 ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (DR. K. L. RAO) : A statement showing the action taken is laid on the Table of the House. [*Placed in Library. See. No. LT—1179/71*].

Assistance to Tea Estates of Assam

*353. SHRI N. SHEVAPPA : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Tea Estates in Assam have been suffering losses constantly;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether Government propose to give assistance to Tea Estates to increase their production so as to earn more foreign exchange, and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI L. N. MISHRA) : (a) and (b). There has been a decline in profitability in tea industry in recent years upto 1969-70, but all the tea estates have not been suffering losses. However in 1970-71, there has been a substantial improvement in prices leading to corresponding improvement in profitability for all tea estates. The decline in profitability resulted mainly from increase in cost on the one hand and decline in prices of tea in the international market on the other.

(c) Financial assistance is already being provided to the tea industry to increase tea

production through various developmental schemes such as the Tea Plantation Finance Scheme, The Tea Machinery and Irrigation Equipment Hire-Purchase Scheme and the Tea Replanting Subsidy Scheme.

**Availability of Power to Nepal from
Kosi Project Hydel Power Plant
at Brimnagar**

*354. SHRI S. C. SAMANTA : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) how much power is expected to be made available to Nepal from the Kosi Project Hydel Power Plant at Brimnagar and when;

(b) whether this matter has been settled by bilateral talks between India and Nepal; and

(c) if so, the nature of the talks ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (DR. K. L. RAO) : (a) to (c). The Kosi Power Station will have a total installed capacity of 20 MW. Half of the power generated at this station is to be supplied to Nepal. It is expected that the supply to Nepal will start from March/April, 1972.

In recent discussions by the Minister of Irrigation and Power and an official delegation at Kathmandu in October, 1971, it was agreed that the rate for supply of power to His Majesty's Government should be at a rate 10 paise per unit and that there should be a rebate of 10% i.e. 1 paise per unit for power to be utilised by the pumped canal in Nepal which would be an agricultural load. These rates will apply upto the end of 1981 and will be reviewed after that period.

**Surplus posts due to Quereahi
Committee Report**

*355. SHRI SHASHI BHUSHAN :
SHRI NARENDRA SINGH
BISHT :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :