

(b) whether Government are aware that the postponement of this Project will hit the economy of Eastern U.P. and North Bihar; and

(c) if so, when funds required for the purpose would be made available?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (DR. K. L. RAO): (a) The Gandak Project did not come to a stand still but the progress was less than what it should have been due to inadequate funds.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Additional funds are being provided this year to accelerate the Project both in U.P. & Bihar.

Non-Registered Medical Practitioners

*984. SHRI SURENDRANATH DWIVEDI: Will the Minister of HEALTH, FAMILY PLANNING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the consideration of the proposal to recognise and register non-Registered Medical Practitioners as Allopathic doctors and to permit them to perform some minor medical duties for the treatment of patients has been completed;

(b) whether all State Governments have intimated their willingness to the proposal; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken in the matter and when this will be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH, FAMILY PLANNING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SATYA NARAYAN SINHA): (a) Not yet.

(b) Replies from many of the State Governments are still awaited.

(c) The matter is proposed to be discussed at the meeting of the Executive Committee of the Central Council of Health to be held on the 19th April, 1968. Further action will be taken in the light of the decision taken there.

Drilling in Ganga Valley

*985. SHRI PREM CHAND VERMA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the estimates for drilling in Ganga Valley by the Oil and Natural Gas Commission were 5 wells of 5,000 metres at a cost of Rs. 3.28 crores in 34 months;

(b) whether it is also a fact that actually in about 27 months, two wells were drilled at a cost of Rs. 2.37 crores, which was almost double the estimated cost; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and whether the contractors were proceeded against for default in carrying out the contract as per schedule?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI ASOKA MEHTA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Two wells were drilled at a cost of Rs. 2.73 crores.

(c) In the absence of precise knowledge of the subsoil geological and drilling conditions in these areas, the originally assumed estimate of drilling time turned out to be too low. There was no major default on the part of contractors and as such the question of proceeding against them did not arise. However, a refund of US \$ 50,000 plus Rs. 4,30,000 was obtained from the contractor for some delay in spudding the first well and for delay in the transportation of the rig etc.

Uniform Electricity rates

*986. SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: SHRI SHAMBHU NATH:

Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a final decision has been taken to have uniform electricity rates in all the States both for industrial and agricultural consumption;

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

(c) when a decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (DR. K. L. RAO): (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [*Placed in Library. See No. LT-680/168.*]

Fertilizer Plant at Goa

*987. **SHRI D. C. SHARMA:** Will the Minister of **PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS** be pleased to state:

(a) whether the decision regarding the setting up of a fertilizer complex at Goa with the British and American collaboration has been finalized;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the stage at which the matter stands at present?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI ASOKA MEHTA):

(a) and (b). M/s Birla Gwalior Private Ltd. have been holding an industrial licence for setting up a fertilizer plant at Goa in collaboration with M/s Armour and Company of U.S.A. for the manufacture of 340,000 tonnes of urea per annum.

The total project cost is estimated to be \$ 66 million (\$ 35.5 million in foreign exchange and \$ 32.5 million in rupees).

(c) The firm have submitted a revised financing plan which is under examination by the Government.

Technical Personnel recruited for Public Undertakings

5798. **SHRI K. M. Koushik:** Will the Minister of **FINANCE** be pleased to state:

(a) the medium for the selection of technical personnel recruited for the Public Undertakings; and

(b) the names of members constituting the Selection Board, in case, if it is not the U.P.S.C.?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MORARJI DESAI): (a) and (b). Technical personnel, other than those for top management posts, for public undertakings are recruited by the enterprises themselves in accordance with their recruitment rules. Appointments to technical posts with pay above certain specified limits would, however, require the approval of Government.

Expenditure on water and electricity in respect of Central Ministers

5799. **SHRI BABURAO PATEL:** Will the Minister of **WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY** be pleased to state the amount of charges in Rupees spent by each member of the Central Cabinet by way of water and electricity charges during the last six months ending the 30th September, 1967 with the names of the Cabinet Minister concerned?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY (SHRI IQBAL SINGH): A statement, showing the amount of exact charges to the nearest rupee incurred by the Central Public Works Department by way of Water and Electricity charges in the six months ending 30th September, 1967 in the residences of the Cabinet Ministers, is laid on the Table of the House. [*Placed in Library. See No. LT-681/68.*]

Estate Duty

5800. **SHRI BABURAO PATEL:** Will the Minister of **FINANCE** be pleased to state:

(a) the names of persons assessable for estate duty who died during the last 10 years ending the 31st March, 1967 and the amount of estate duty paid by each of rupees one lakh and over;

(b) the amount of arrears and names of those who have not paid and the reasons therefor;