

work for the control of River "Teesta" in North Bengal in the near future ;

(d) if the answer to part (c) be in the affirmative, whether Government have any contemplation to employ the surplus staff under the Farakka Project in the Teesta Control Project ; and

(e) if the answer to part (c) be in the negative, whether Government propose to take up Teesta Control Project, and whether arrangements are being made to absorb the surplus staff under the Farakka Barrage Project ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (DR. K. L. RAO) : (a) The works of Farakka Barrage will be substantially completed by 1970-71.

(b) The details are not yet available, because the maintenance set up which will be required after the completion of the project and will employ some of the existing staff is under examination.

(c) to (e). The Teesta Barrage Project Report prepared by the Government of West Bengal is being revised by West Bengal Government as a result of recent discussions between Union Minister of Irrigation and Power and Minister of Irrigation and Waterways, West Bengal, after which final scrutiny will be done by Central Water and Power Commission. The suitable phasing of the Project is under consideration. After the project is approved by the Technical Advisory Committee and accepted by the Planning Commission, the Project will be included in the State's Fourth Plan. The question of absorption of the surplus staff from the Farakka Project in the Tista Project will arise after the sanction of the Project. Meanwhile efforts are being made to assist the staff which will be rendered surplus to get suitable employment as far as possible in the various organisations under the Central and State Governments.

Demand of Wage Increase by Employees of Nationalised Banks

*324. SHRI S. M. KRISHNA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to

state :

(a) whether it is a fact that organisations of the employees of the 14 nationalised banks in the country have demanded a wage increase ;

(b) if so, whether Government have considered this demand ; and

(c) if not, the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI P. C. SETHI) : (a) The All India Bank Employees Association on behalf of all the bank employees, including those of the nationalised banks it represents, has presented to the Indian Banks Association a charter of demands including wage increase.

(b) and (c). Indian Banks Association, on behalf of the nationalised banks also, is having bi-partite discussions now with the representatives of the All India Bank Employees Association. Therefore, the question of Government considering the demand for wage increase by the employees of the nationalised banks, does not arise.

Pattern of Deposit Rates

*325. SHRI H. AJMAL KHAN ;
SHRI D. N. DEB ;
SHRI S. P. RAMAMOORTHY ;
SHRI ONKAR LAL BERWA :

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Reserve Bank of India recently issued directive to the Banks to accept and implement as early as possible the pattern of deposit rates prescribed by it ; and

(b) what has been the reaction of the nationalised banks in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI P. C. SETHI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There has been no unfavourable reaction from the commercial banks including the nationalised banks to the Reserve