

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to introduce a new direct train between Nagpur and Ahmedabad to meet the rush of passengers on this route;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. C. LENKA): (a) There is only one direct train between Nagpur and Ahmedabad, due to which passengers face some difficulty.

(b) No, Sir. However, the load of 8033/8034 Howrah-Ahmedabad Express has been augmented by a general second class coach from 15-8-93.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Lack of resources.

"Protection of Chilka Lake"

4223. **SHRI SARAT CHANDRA PATANAYAK:**

SHRI CHITTA BASU:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have examined the report on the environmental impact assessment study of Chilka Prawn Culture Project, prepared by the Water and Power Consultancy Services (India) Limited (WAPCOS);

(b) if so, the recommendations/observations made therein;

(c) the action taken by the Government thereon;

(d) whether the Government have received representations specially from U.S. based Mangrove Action Project (MAP) for protection of Chilka lake in Orissa; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) The Environmental Impact Assessment Report (EIA) prepared by Water and Power Consultancy Services (India) Ltd.

(WAPCOS) has been examined. The report indicates that no adverse impacts are envisaged on flora and fauna due to the project. However, some water quality problems arising out of the project will be controlled by undertaking appropriate mitigative measures. The report further indicates positive impacts on socio-economic conditions of the people in the project area.

(c) Several lacunae has been noticed in the report. The data collected on hydrology, water quality, flora and fauna etc. is not complete and comprehensive. It has also been pointed out that Chilka Lake is getting choked by siltation which will get aggravated by construction of barriers of various kinds within the lake area and in the Bhubania nallah that drains into the lake and becomes a part of the lake during the rainy season and some months thereafter each year. Permission for allowing for the farm ponds will only legitimise the intrusion and consequent process of degradation. Based on the examination of the report, the State Government of Orissa has been advised that a multi-disciplinary group should be involved to carry out a proper environmental impact assessment study as per the Terms of Reference Suggested for this purpose.

(d) No representation has been received from the US based Mangrove Action Project for protection of Chilka Lake in Orissa.

(e) Does not arise.

Assistance to Bihar for Drought Relief

4224. **SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES:**

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister had announced a special aid package for Bihar to tackle the drought and drinking water crisis during his visit to the State in April, 1993;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount sanctioned so far on this account;

(d) the time by which the remaining amount is likely to be sanctioned; and

(e) the other steps taken to tackle the drought and famine situation in the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) and (b) During his visit to the drought affected areas of Bihar on April 24, 1993, Prime Minister announced an additional release of Rs. 175.00 crores under Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY) and Rs. 5.00 crores under Wasteland Development to meet drought situation.

(c) and (d) An amount of Rs. 175.00 crores has since been released to Govt. of Bihar under the JRY. The remaining Rs. 5.00 crores will be considered for release after receipt of project proposals on Wasteland Development from State Government.

(e) Other steps taken to tackle the drought situation include:

- (i) Stocking of emergency foodgrains in every Panchayat.
- (ii) Revamping, repair & restoration of major, medium and minor irrigation schemes.
- (iii) Augmentation and earmarking of Electric Supply for Irrigation purposes.
- (iv) Generation of massive additional employment through earthwork schemes.
- (v) Provision of safe drinking water.
- (vi) Contingency plan for prevention of epidemic.
- (vii) Storage and distribution of fodder for cattle.
- (viii) Nutrition Programme for children, lactating mothers and indigents.

Watershed Development Centre in Bhopal

4225. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government propose to set up Watershed Development Centre in Bhopal (M.P.); and

(b) if so, the details thereof and by when the said centre is likely to become operational?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) and (b) An Umbrella Project "Community Based Programme for Sustainable Farming Systems in Fragile Watersheds" which includes a component for establishment of a Watershed Management Centre has been initiated for UNDP assistance.

Procurement Price of Foodgrains

4226. SHRI SYED SHAHABUDDIN:

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) the yearly procurement price of major foodgrains during the last three years at 1981 constant price; and

(b) the percentage of total production of each foodgrain procured year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) Statement I showing Minimum Support Prices/Procurement Prices of wheat any levy rice (common) for the last three rabi/kharif marketing seasons at 1981 constant price is attached.

(b) Statement II giving requisite information is attached.