

rivers has also been proposed to supplement the waters in the link canal. The Indian proposal would provide large benefits of flood control, water supply and irrigation, navigation, hydro-power generation, etc., to both the countries.

Bangladesh has also made a proposal which envisages augmentation of the Ganga flows by construction of storage dams within the Ganga basin in India and Nepal for the benefit of these two countries as well as Bangladesh in regard to power generation and irrigation and augmentation of the flows in the Ganga. Some of the stored water in Nepal is also proposed to be utilised in a canal passing along the Nepal terai to Bangladesh through a 30 km. corridor in India in the northern part of West Bengal to provide an international navigation water route to Nepal as well as to augment the flows in the Mahananda and other rivers.

The Indo-Bangladesh Joint Rivers Commission has undertaken the preliminary study of the two proposals.

Additional land under Agriculture

1168. SHRI R. V. SWAMINATHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Ministry have drawn up a plan to bring additional hectares of land for Agricultural purpose during the VIth Plan period;

(b) if so, the total cost of expenditure involved;

(c) in which State more land is likely to be brought under the scheme; and

(d) the main features of the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI SURJIT SINGH BARNALA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The proposals suggested in the Report of the Working Group on

Soil Conservation and Land Reclamation would involve an outlay of about Rs. 45 crores during 1978—83. The Report is under consideration.

(c) Maximum land under the scheme is likely to be reclaimed in U.P.

(d) There are two schemes which will bring additional land under agriculture:-

(i) *Central Scheme for protection and development of ravine watersheds.*

Under the scheme shallow and medium ravines will be reclaimed for agriculture and the rest of the reversionary areas will be brought under afforestation on the basis of treatment of a complete watershed with the twin objective of checking further spread of ravines, and utilising the land already ruined by ravines.

(ii) *Central Scheme for reclamation and management of alkali soils and amendment of acid soils.*

Alkali land is treated with gypsum/pyrites and a package of fertiliser and cropping practices to make them fit for agriculture again. Acid soil is already ready under cultivation.

Proposal to increase price of wheat

1169. SHRI RAGHBIR SINGH VIRK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prices of agricultural components have gone high during the last three years and if so, the reasons thereof;

(b) whether it is also a fact that prices of wheat stand still during the same period in view of the fact that prices of agricultural components have gone high; and

(c) whether Government propose to increase the prices of wheat and if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION (SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH): (a) and (b). A statement showing the procurement price of wheat and index numbers of wholesale prices of agricultural inputs is attached. It will be seen therefrom that percentage rise in the procurement price of wheat between 1975-76

and 1977-78 was 7.1 percent, while the prices of inputs, except electricity and insecticides, have risen at a lesser rate so much so that prices of lubricating oil, tractors and fertilisers recorded a fall.

(c) Government are expected to announce the procurement price of wheat for the next rabi season shortly.

Statement

Procurement price of wheat and Index numbers of wholesale prices of Agricultural inputs

	*1975-76	*1976-77	*1977-78	Percentage variation in 1977-78 over 1975-76
Procurement price of wheat @ (Rs. per qtl.)	105.00	110.00	112.00	+7.1
Index Nos. of wholesale prices of (Base: 1970-71=100)				
Diesel Oil	206.4	213.9	214.1	+3.7
Lubricating Oil	316.2	314.2	314.2	-0.6
Electricity	158.1	171.6	182.5	+15.4
Tractors.	204.6	203.0	202.4	-1.1
Agripowrah	216.9	216.9	231.3	+6.6
Cement	170.5	173.6	176.8	+3.7
Pig Iron.	175.4	181.6	181.7	+3.6
Fertilisers	214.7	186.5	177.4	-17.4
Insecticides	216.2	232.4	232.2	+7.4

*Relate to the crop harvested during the year (to be marketed in the subsequent year).

बाढ़ के कारण प्रभावित हुई सिंचाई योजनाओं पर अतिरिक्त व्यय

1170. श्री गंगा लक्ष्मण सिंह: क्या कृषि और सिंचाई मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या केन्द्रीय सरकार ने उत्तर प्रदेश, बिहार, पश्चिम बंगाल आदि राज्यों में सिंचाई योजनाओं पर अतिरिक्त व्यय की व्यवस्था की है जहाँ कि सिंचाई योजनाओं पर हाव की बाढ़ का बुरा प्रभाव पड़ा है;

(ख) यदि हाँ, तो इस कार्य के लिये उत्तर प्रदेश सरकार के लिये कितनी राशि मंजूर की गई है और क्या उसने इस परियोजना के लिये अतिरिक्त सहायता की मांग की है; और

(ग) क्या यह कार्य प्रारम्भ कर दिया गया है और इसके कब तक पूरा किये जाने की सम्भावना है?

कृषि और सिंचाई मंत्री (श्री सुरजीत सिंह बरनाला): (क) बाढ़ से प्रभावित निम्नलिखित राज्यों को वर्ष 1978-79 के दौरान अग्रिम योजना सहायता दी गई है:—

- (1) बिहार
- (2) हरियाणा
- (3) हिमाचल प्रदेश
- (4) पंजाब