

(b) The recommendations made by the Central Team have been accepted by the Government of India and the State Government have been informed that a ceiling of expenditure of Rs. 31.51 crores has been adopted for purposes of Central assistance.

Appointment of Special Inquiry Committee on Floods

2153. SHRI SAROJ MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have appointed any Special Inquiry Committee on Floods to evaluate the implementation of the recommendations of the Special Committee set up in 1951 about the flowing of Ganga Waters; and

(b) if so, the observations of the Committee ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. N. KUREEL) : (a) No such Committee has been appointed by the Government of India.

(b) Does not arise.

Floods in Howrah and Hooghly districts

2154. SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the floods in Howrah and Hooghly districts were due to the non-completion of the embankments below Durgapur;

(b) if so, whether any scheme had been prepared long back for the same; and

(c) if so, the reasons for the non-implementation thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. N. KUREEL) : (a) Parts

of Howrah and Hooghly districts were affected by the spilling of the Damodar river below Durgapur due to inadequate bankful capacity in the unembanked reaches.

(b) and (c). In 1970, the Government of West Bengal had formulated a comprehensive scheme for the control of floods and drainage congestion in the Lower Damodar region to be implemented in stages. The scheme was then estimated to cost Rs. 14 crores. Stage I of the scheme comprising the re-sectioning of the Amta Channel, construction of outfall sluice and drains in the Amta basin estimated to cost Rs. 6.8 crores had been approved by the Planning Commission and work started during 1970-71. The State Government have informed that the detailed scheme for the balance works of the comprehensive scheme has been prepared and will be sent shortly to the Centre for scrutiny. These works are to be taken up after the scheme is approved by Planning Commission.

Service conditions of Supreme Court Judges

2155. SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the question of improving the service conditions of Supreme Court Judges is under the consideration of Government;

(b) if so, the decisions arrived at in this regard; and

(c) the steps taken to implement the same ?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H. R. GOKHALE) : (a) to (c). The specific proposals were considered by Government to improve the conditions of service of Supreme Court Judges, viz.,

(i) to raise the retirement age from 65 to 68 years; and

(ii) to raise the salaries of Judges by Rs. 500/- per month.