

(b) As per the construction programme, the project will take eight years for completion.

(c) Water spread of this dam will submerge about 4249 hectares of land submerging besides Tehri Town 22 villages wholly and 70 villages partially affecting 2235 families or 13413 persons.

Indo-Bangladesh Joint River Commission

237. SHRI BANMALI PATNAIK :
SHRI ARJUN SETHI :

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

(a) whether the Indo-Bangladesh Joint River Commission met recently ;

(b) if so, the problems discussed and the decisions arrived at ; and

(c) whether Farakka Barrage project was also discussed and if so, with what results ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. N. KUREEL) : (a) and (b) The first meeting of the India-Bangladesh Joint Rivers Commission was held at New Delhi on the 25th and 26th June, 1972.

A review was made of the flood forecasting and warning arrangements and of the river protection works in the Ganga-Brahmaputra-Meghna system in general. Joint Working Groups were constituted to study some immediate flood problems of mutual concern.

(c) No, Sir.

Increase in demand of Indian Silk in Foreign Countries

238. SHRI C. K. JAFFER SHARIEF :
SHRI RANABHADUR SINGH :

Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the countries in which demand for Indian Silk is increasing ;

(b) the names of the countries with which India is in contact ;

(c) the Foreign Exchange earned annually during the last 3 years, country-wise ; and

(d) the nature of encouragement Government have given to improve this industry in the country ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : (a) West Germany, France, Malaysia and Netherlands.

(b) The important countries to which Indian silk goods are exported are : West European countries, USA, U. K. Malaysia, Japan, Kenya, Hong Kong, Canada, Australia, Czechoslovakia and Poland. The Indian silk exporters maintain close contacts with the importers in the countries.

(c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [*Placed in Library. See No. LT—3208/72*].

(d) (1) An outlay of Rs. 10.39 crores has been provided for the sericulture industry development of during the IV Plan.

(2) Serious efforts are being made by the Central Silk Board's research stations at Mysore, Ranchi and Berhampore to improve the quality of Indian silk and reduce its cost of production.

(3) Suitable replenishment schemes for supply of imported raw materials against export of natural silk products are in operation.

(4) The Central Silk Board sent a delegation to West European countries, USA, Japan and Hong Kong in November 1971 to find out the reasons for the decline in exports of silk goods and to assess the future demand pattern of Indian silks in the importing countries.

(5) Established exporters are granted financial assistance for undertaking market studies, participation in exhibitions, trade fairs, etc.