

Dam Project is under investigation by the West Bengal Government. The relevant Project Report is awaited. Government's reaction will be known after the report is received.

Accommodation for Lawyers of Delhi Courts

3788. SHRI MAHANT DIGVIJAI NATH: Will the Minister of WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the lawyers of the Delhi Courts went on strike on the 26th November, 1968 in connection with their demand for suitable accommodation;

(b) whether the lawyers have also sent a Memorandum to Government for the provision of suitable accommodation; and

(c) if so, the steps being taken by Government to provide accommodation to the lawyers?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WORKS, HOUSING AND SUPPLY (SHRI IQBAL SINGH):

(a) Some lawyers of New Delhi Courts went on strike which has since been given up.

(b) The New Delhi Bar Association held a meeting on 26th November, 1968 and passed a resolution in this behalf, a copy of which has been received by the Government.

(c) The Government are taking steps to see how better accommodation could be provided.

Power Plant at Bikaner

3789. SHRI VISHWA NATH PANDEY: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state.

(a) whether it is a fact that a power plant will be established at Bikaner (Rajasthan) with Yugoslav assistance; and

(b) if so, when?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI SIDHESHWAR, PRASAD): (a) There is no proposal to establish a power plant at Bikaner with Yugoslav assistance.

(b) Does not arise.

Setting up of Six Central Flood Forecasting Units.

3790. SHRI VISHWA NATH PANDEY: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to set up Six Central Flood Forecasting Units in the country;

(b) if so, when and at what places; and

(c) the total amount of expenditure involved on this scheme?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI SIDHESHWAR PRASAD):

(a) to (c). A scheme costing about Rs. 6 crores during the Fourth Plan has been drawn up for establishing flood forecasting and flood warning centres at Gauhati with sub-centre at Silchar (Assam), at Asansol with sub-centre at Silliguri/Jalpaiguri (West Bengal), at Patna (Bihar), at Lucknow (U. P.), at Ahmedabad or Surat (Gujarat) and on the east coast with necessary wireless stations and control rooms and some observation stations for scientific flood forecasting. The proposal is under consideration.

Smuggled goods in 'Jayanti' Ship

3791. SHRI R. K. AMIN: Will the MINISTER OF FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ship "Jayanti" was found recently carrying smuggled goods;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken in the matter?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MORARJI DESAI) : (a) to (c). Fifty-four packages containing nylon sarees, shirting and watch parts valued at about Rs. 2.9 lakhs on import and Rs. 7.1 lakhs at the Indian market price were seized from a fishing craft M. F. V. "Jayawanti" on 27-10-1968 by the Anti-Corruption and Prohibition Bureau of Greater Bombay. Eleven persons were arrested. They were later released on bail by the Magistrate. Further investigations are in progress.

Enquiry About Lapses In Flood Warning

3792. **SHRI R. K. AMIN :** Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that West Bengal Government have decided to ask for explanation of all officials found responsible for lapses following an inquiry into the flood warning system in North Bengal;

(b) whether such an explanation and inquiry will be done in regard to recent floods in Narbada and Tapti rivers;

(c) if so, the details thereof ; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI SIDHESHWAR PRASAD) : (a) Yes. Sir.

(b) to (d). The Government of Madhya Pradesh have reported that timely intimation of flood warnings was sent to Collectors Surat and Jalgaon during 1968 rains. The Government of Gujarat are satisfied that timely action was taken by all concerned officers to transmit the flood messages in accordance with existing system of flood forecasting and warning.

Direct Negotiations by State Governments with World Organisations for Loans

3793. **SHRI D. N. PATODIA :** Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether any State Government can negotiate with any world organisation for loan for the development projects for that State ;

(b) if not, whether all such requests are routed through the Centre and on what basis the requests are considered;

(c) what is Centre's responsibility in the event of delay or failure to repay such loans by the State Governments; and

(d) the number of cases in which State Governments were permitted to negotiate for loans independently ?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MORARJI DESAI) : (a) Under the existing procedure, State Governments are not authorised to undertake direct negotiations with the foreign countries/world organisations for loans for the development projects without prior approval of the Central Government.

(b) All such requests are considered by the Central Government in the Ministry of Finance, Department of Economic Affairs, on the basis of the priority of the project, its position in the plan, its technical and economic feasibility and its requirement of external finance, all of which are examined in consultation with other agencies of the Government like the Planning Commission, administrative Ministry/ Department etc.

(c) Even when a loan is intended for a State Government project, the borrowing from abroad is done only by the Government of India. As a borrower, debt servicing is also done by the Government of India.

(d) None.

Electricity from Bhakra Dam to Member States

3794. **DR. KARNI SINGH :** Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity in K. W. of electricity allocated to each member State of the