

(f) The project scheduled to be completed by 2000 AD. However, completion of the project is dependent on the availability of funds and pari-passu implementation of Resettlement & Rehabilitation measures of Project Affected Families by the party States as per the Narmada Water Disputes Tribunal (N'WDT) Award.

[Translation]

Disputed Irrigation Projects

*209. DR. MADAN PRASAD JAISWAL :
SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government are aware that water sharing disputes are going on among various States;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the efforts being made by the Union Government to resolve the disputes amicably and expeditiously?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Central Government endeavours to resolve inter-State water related disputes by encouraging negotiations, constituting Boards for development and regulation of Inter-State Rivers/River Valleys. Tribunals for adjudication of water disputes are set up on the request of any of the party States if the water disputes are not resolved otherwise.

Tribunals have been set up for adjudication of Godavari, Krishna, Narmada, Ravi-Beas and Cauvery Water Disputes. First three Tribunals have already given their final awards.

Further, the Ministry of Water Resources has also set up a Standing Committee under the National Water Resources Council for resolving inter-State issues in water resources.

Soil Erosion by Ganga

*210. SHRI HIRA LAL ROY :
KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether several districts of Bihar and West Bengal are adversely affected due to soil erosion by the rivers of Ghaghra, Padma and Ganga;

(b) if so, whether any expert Committee has been set up by the Planning Commission to tackle the problem;

(c) whether measures recommended by the Committee are being implemented;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the time by which the problem of soil erosion is likely to be controlled?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) Yes Sir. Severe bank erosion by the river Ganga, called Padma in Bangladesh has affected several areas in the districts of Malda and Murshidabad in West Bengal. Bank erosion by river Ganga has also affected the districts of Buxar, Chhapra, Begusarai and Bhagalpur in Bihar. This phenomenon has also been observed at some reaches along the left bank of river Ghaghra in Bihar State.

(b) to (d) To examine the bank erosion problem of the river Ganga/Padma in the districts of Malda and Murshidabad in West Bengal. Planning Commission constituted an Experts' Committee in September, 1996 which submitted its report in December, 1996, recommending short term and long term measures, costing Rs. 315 crore and Rs. 612 crore respectively for tackling the erosion problem in various reaches lying upstream and downstream of the Farakka Barrage in the districts of Malda and Murshidabad. The long and short term measures were prioritised and the schemes were allocated between the Centre and the Government of West Bengal based on their respective jurisdiction for providing funds by the Planning Commission, and their execution subsequently.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) River behaviour and its management for large rivers like Ganga flowing through alluvial plains are not easily amenable for accurate predictions, and undertaking measures to remedy the problem due to bank erosion. Thus it is difficult to completely eliminate or to fix a definite time frame towards controlling bank erosion in such a large river.

Target and Production of Wheat

*211. SHRI SATNAM SINGH KAINTH :
SHRI CHANDRASHEKHAR SAHU :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether production of wheat this year is less than the targets fixed;

(b) the quantum of wheat estimated to be produced and the actual production thereof;

(c) the action being taken by the Government to meet the shortage of wheat;

(d) the impact of shortfall on wheat prices; and

(e) the target set and achieved for procurement of wheat by different Government agencies like Food Corporation of India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL) : (a) and (b) The Production of wheat during 1997-98 is likely to be 66.38 million tonnes as compared to the target of 68.50 million tonnes, thus showing a shortfall of 2.12 million tonnes.

(c) Action has been taken to import 1.5 million tonnes of wheat.

(d) and (e) The procurement of foodgrains under price support is voluntary in nature, since only the foodgrains offered by the farmers are procured by the Food Corporation of India/State Government agencies. As such, no targets for procurement are fixed. However, a substantial quantity of 11.96 million tonnes as on 5.6.1998 has been procured as against only 8.52 million tonnes procured as by this day last year. With sufficient stock available with the Government, the prices of wheat are very comfortable as reflected in only 3.2 per cent annual increase in the wholesale price Index of wheat for the week ending 23.5.98 as against 16.4 per cent during the corresponding period last year. The current year increase in wheat prices is also lower than the price increase of 6.5 per cent for all commodities.

Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty

*212. SHRI MANIKRAO HODLYA GAVIT :
SHRI RAMKRISHNA BABA PATIL :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government now propose to sign CTBT after conducting nuclear tests;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether there has been pressure from the developed countries to sign CTBT;

(d) if so, the details of such nations;

(e) whether signing on CTBT is likely to adversely affect our further nuclear tests; and

(f) if so, the steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) Government have announced that India will observe a voluntary moratorium and refrain from conducting underground nuclear test explosions. It has also indicated willingness to move towards de-jure formalisation of this declaration.

(c) and (d) Several developed countries such as USA,

France, United Kingdom, Germany, Japan, Italy, Denmark, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and others have called on India to sign the CTBT without any conditions.

(e) and (f) Under the CTBT, States Parties are prohibited from conducting "any nuclear test explosions or any other nuclear explosion". Government have already announced a voluntary moratorium on further underground nuclear test explosions. However, the series of tests conducted by India have provided us critical data for the validation of our capability, significantly enhanced our capability in computer simulation and enabled us to undertake sub-critical experiments in future, if considered necessary.

[English]

Electronic Industry

*213. PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decided to form a "development council" for electronic industries to deal with its problems for both hardware and software sector; and

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith its composition, aims and objectives?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government of India, vide order published in the Gazette of India: Extraordinary S.O. 157(E) dated 2nd March, 1998 has established the Development Council for Electronics Industry for a period of two years in exercise of the powers conferred by Section 6 of the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951, (85 of 1951), read with rules 3, 4 and 5 of the Development Councils (Procedural) Rules, 1952. The purpose of this Council is to provide a forum for considering the problems of the electronics industry and to suggest measures for future development of both hardware and software sector. The composition of the said Council is given in the Statement enclosed.

Statement

Composition of Development Council for Electronics Industry

1. Secretary to the Government of India, — Chairman
Department of Electronics,
Electronics Niketan, CGO Complex,
New Delhi.
2. Secretary to the Government of India — Member