

(b) how much land has been brought under irrigation under the Project;

(c) the total outlay so far;

(d) the reasons for the delay in the execution of the scheme; and

(e) when the project will be completed?

The Minister of Irrigation and Power (Dr. K. L. Rao): (a) The Kosi Project has been sanctioned for execution in two stages. Stage I of the Project comprises of Barrage, the flood embankments and the Eastern Kosi Canal System. Barrage has been completed. Work on Flood embankment is also complete except for three sluices on the eastern side. 96% of the earthwork in Eastern Kosi Canal has been done so far.

Stage II works of the Kosi Project comprise construction of the Power House, Rajpur Branch Canal System and the Western Kosi Canal. Works on the Kosi Power House are in an advanced stage. Unit No. 4 is expected to be completed by December 1967. Major parts in respect of Unit No. 3 have also been received at site. The insulation material for the erection of this Unit as also of Units Nos. 1 and 2 has to be imported from the Japanese Firm for which necessary foreign exchange has been sanctioned. The work of the Rajpur Branch Canal is in full progress. Out of a total earthwork of 51.05 crores cft. involved, 44.48 crores cft. has been done on this Canal. On receipt of permission from His Majesty's Government of Nepal, early in January 1967, surveys and investigations in Nepal territory for the Western Kosi Canal have been taken up. Reconnaissance of this Canal having a length of 101.70 R.D. in Nepal territory beyond river portion has been done.

(b) During 1966-67 two lakh acres were irrigated in Kharif season two lakh acres during the Rabi season and 40,000 acres in the hot weather, from the Eastern Kosi Canal.

(c) An expenditure of about Rs. 73 crores has been incurred on this Project including extensions and stage II.

(d) There has been no particular delay in the execution of the Project except in commissioning the Eastern Kosi Canal System fully. The Eastern Kosi Canal System could not be put to full use because the Power House has to be constructed in the Main Canal. The work of the Power House was delayed mainly because of seizure of equipment by Pakistan during the hostilities in 1965.

(e) Stage I of the Project is almost complete. The work on the extensions, added from time to time, is in progress. The entire Project is expected to be completed by the end of the Fourth Plan except the Western Kosi Canal which will be completed in the Fifth Plan.

Ways and Means Position of Madhya Pradesh

*524. **Shri Nitiraj Singh Chaudhary:**

**Shri Manibhai J. Patel:
Shri Ram Singh Ayarwal:
Shri Lakhan Lal Gupta:**

Will the Minister of Finance be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Madhya Pradesh Government are required to keep in deposit between Rs. 1 crore to Rs. 1.50 crores at any given time in non-banking treasuries;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the State invested Rs. 2.60 crores last year on the purchase of imported foodgrains and its claim for reimbursement from Rs. 3 crores to Rs. 8 crores at any given time remained pending with the Central Government; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to take to revise the ways and means advance limit prescribed for Madhya Pradesh by the Reserve Bank?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance (Shri K. C. Pant): (a) The Madhya Pradesh Government normally maintain balances of this order in their non-banking treasuries and sub-treasuries.

(b) While the value of imported foodgrains supplied to the State Government during 1966-67 amounted to Rs. 17.60 crores, precise information about the value of stocks of such foodgrains at the close of the year is not available. There are no instances of any valid claim of the State Government exceeding Rs. 3 crores which have remained pending for reimbursement with the Central Government in recent years for unduly long periods.

(c) Under the Agreement between the State Government and the Reserve Bank of India the latter acts as banker of the former and the amount of ways and means advance to be given by the Bank to the State Government is a matter for negotiation between the two. It may, however, be mentioned that the limit of ways and means advance has been increased recently.

Shortage of Fertilizers

*525. Shri Vasudevan Nair: Will the Minister of Petroleum and Chemicals be pleased to state:

(a) the extent of shortage of fertilizers at present; and

(b) the steps taken to make it up?

The Minister of Planning, Petroleum and Chemicals and Social Welfare (Shri Asoka Mehta): (a) It is presumed that the shortage referred to is in indigenous production. Against the estimated demand of 1.350 million tonnes of nitrogen and 0.500 million tonnes of P205 during the year 1967-68, production is estimated to be 0.525 million tonnes and 0.305 million tonnes respectively.

(b) The balance of the requirements will be met by imports.

Loss suffered by F.A.C.T., Alwaye

*526. Shri Baburao Patel: Will the Minister of Petroleum and Chemicals be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore Ltd., the public sector fertilizer project at Alwaye, has incurred a loss of Rs. 1,18,68,000 in two years ending the 31st March, 1966;

(b) whether Government propose to appoint an inquiry committee to find out the various reasons for this loss;

(c) if so, when; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

The Minister of Planning, Petroleum and Chemicals and Social Welfare (Shri Asoka Mehta): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) As the reasons for the loss are known, no useful purpose will be served by appointing a committee.

Electricity Rates in States

*527. Shri P. Gopalan:
Shri Umanath:

Will the Minister of Irrigation and Power be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Central Government have asked the State Governments to undertake an immediate and upward revision of the electricity rates in all States;

(b) if so the reasons therefore; and

(c) whether the World Bank had recently suggested such a revision of rates?

The Minister of Irrigation and Power (Dr. K. L. Rao): (a) to (c): In April, 1964, the Government of India had appointed a Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri R. Venkataraman, the then Minister for