

Plan to check soil erosion along the Banks of Brahmaputra

3025. SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any plan to prevent soil erosion along the banks of Brahmaputra; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the amount spent so far or proposed to be spent for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA):

(a) and (b) Anti-erosion schemes on the river Brahmaputra have been undertaken by the Govt. of Assam since 1954 following the historic erosion of Dibrugarh Town. Since then, several major and minor anti-erosion schemes have been undertaken along the 640 km. reach encompassing areas like Majuli, Tezpur, Dibrugarh, Sonarighat, Mukalmua, Gumi, Palasbari, Goalpara, Mariahola, and Hathala. The expenditure incurred upto March 1994 is about Rs. 484 crore. Execution of anti-erosion schemes is a continuing process and the schemes are executed depending on the severity of erosion in a specific area and in accordance with the resources available at the disposal of the State Government.

Indians settled abroad

3026. MAULANA OBAIDULLAH KHAN AZMI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the countries in which Indians are settled; and

(b) the steps taken to safeguard their interests?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL): (a) There would hardly be any country in the world where at least some persons of Indian origin may not be settled. As regards measures being taken by the Government of India to safeguard their interests we expect them to abide by the rules, regulations and aspirations of the country of their domicile. However, the Government of India encourages them to also maintain cordial links, specially in respect of the cultural heritage of their mother country, India.

(b) The Indian Missions abroad remain fully committed to serve the interests of our nationals in particular and of all the Indian origin persons settled abroad in general.

Flood control in Assam

3027. DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: SHRIMATI BASANTI SARMA:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether flood management in Assam was one of the major concerns for the Eighth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, apart from giving Rs. 25 crores to the Assam Government what efforts have Government made in this regard; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken for efficient flood management in Assam and other States?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Central loan assistance of Rs. 100 crore with moratorium toward recovery of interest and loan charges during the last two years of the 8th Plan has been released to the Government of Assam. Further, for the year 1996-97, a grant of Rs. 25 crore has been earmarked for reimbursement against executed schemes out of which an advance of Rs. 5 crore has been released so far.

The Brahmaputra Board has prepared Master Plans for Flood Management in Brahmaputra and Barak Valleys. These Master Plans have been sent to the Government of Assam and the North-eastern States for implementation of individual schemes by the States as per their priorities.

बिहार की राढ़ सिंचाई परियोजना

3028. श्री इन रंजन: क्या जल संसाधन मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि बिहार सरकार ने रांची जिले में राढ़ सिंचाई परियोजना का सर्वेक्षण कार्य पूरा करने के बाद अपनी रिपोर्ट केन्द्रीय जल आयोग को स्वीकृति हेतु भेजी है;

(ख) क्या यह भी सच है कि परियोजना के अंतर्गत आंशिक मुआवजा और पुनर्वास हेतु 82280 हेक्टेयर भूमि दी जाएगी; और

(ग) यदि हां, तो सरकार कब तक राढ़ परियोजना को स्वीकृति देने का विचार रखती है; यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं?

जल संसाधन मंत्री (श्री जनेश्वर मिश्र): (क) केन्द्रीय जल आयोग में राढ़ सिंचाई परियोजना का परियोजना प्रस्ताव प्राप्त नहीं हुआ है। तथापि, राढ़ जलाशय परियोजना का प्रस्ताव केन्द्रीय जल आयोग में 9/89 में प्राप्त हुआ था। जांच के बाद परियोजना रिपोर्ट केन्द्रीय जल आयोग की टिप्पणियों की अनुपालना के लिए राज्य सरकार को 1990 में वापस भेज दी गई थी।

(ख) सूचना एकत्र की जा रही है तथा सदन के पटल पर रख दी जाएगी।

(ग) सिंचाई राज्य का विषय है। सिंचाई परियोजनाओं को आयोजना, अनुदान एवं कार्यान्वयन राज्य सरकारें अपने स्वयं संसाधनों से करती हैं। तथापि, परियोजना की स्वीकृति राज्य सरकार की प्राथमिकता पर निर्भर करती है।

Allocation to Punjab from Central Road Fund

3029. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the amount allocated to the State of Punjab from the Central Road Fund during the years 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96;

(b) whether any amount is proposed to be sanctioned for the State for the year 1996-97;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN):

(a) The amount allocated to Punjab, from the Central Road Fund during 1993-94, 1994-95 and 1995-96 is given below:—

(Rs. in lakhs)	
Year	Amount
1993-94	60.00
1994-95	259.00
1995-96	213.00

(b) to (d) The amount for the year 1996-97 will be released, after the Demands for Grants are passed by the Parliament.

Violation of the Jute Packaging Material Act by Fertilizer Industry

3030. SHRIMATI CHANDRA KALA PANDEY:

SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether as per the Jute Packaging Material Use in Packing Commodities Act it is mandatory for the Fertilizer Industry to pack entire urea production in jute bags;

(b) whether it also stipulates packaging of 65% of the production by cement industry;

(c) whether Government are aware that this Act is being violated and packaging is being done in synthetic bags; and

(d) if so, the details of action taken so far by Government against violators during last three years?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) and (b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) Cement industry and the Urea producing units have violated the provisions of the Act. Under Section 6, 7 and 8 of the Act, the Office of the Jute Commissioner has from time to time, carried out inspections of books and records in 10 cement and 3 Fertilizer units, called for information with particular reference to details of utilisation of jute bags by units and issued 11 show cause notices to some of them for continuing violation.

Delay in issuing the licences for amateur Radio Telegraph Station

3031. SHRI JAGIR SINGH DARD:
DR. SHRIKANT RAMACHANDRA JICHKAR:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the issuance of Amateur Radio Telegraph Station Licences is being delayed because of the Police Enquiry Report not coming in time;