

and 86 per cent of the structures were completed by July 1990 when the construction work came to a halt following the killing of the Chief Engineer and a Superintending Engineer of the Project. The latest approved cost of the Project at 1990 price level is Rs. 499.12 crores the Project is under construction by the Government of Punjab, but the funds are made available by Government of India. The expenditure till March 1991 was Rs. 456 crores. The Government of Punjab has been advised to engage appropriate agency/agencies to complete the balance work. The time schedule for completion will depend on the nature and the capacity of the new agency/agencies that will be engaged by Government of Punjab.

Bilateral co-operation with USSR

*114. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the areas of bilateral co-operation in agriculture and allied sectors with U.S.S.R.; and

(b) whether there are any new identified areas of mutual benefit in this direction, if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): (a) and (b) A Statement is laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Statement

Bilateral Cooperation with USSR in agriculture and allied sector

The Long Term Programme (LTP) of Cooperation upto the year 2000 A.D. between India and USSR in the field of agriculture envisages scientific, technical and economic cooperation in the areas of agricultural production and processing, seeds development, farm mechanisation, integrated post management, soil and land resources management, livestock development, animal health, meat production and horticulture.

In the third meeting of the Indo-Soviet Working Group set up under the LTP to

review and monitor the progress of co-operation in the field of agriculture held in Moscow from May 24—31, 1990, renewed emphasis was laid on developing new forms of economic and technical co-operation in the field of agro-industry, expansion of cooperation for seeds development under India's New Seed Policy particularly for oilseeds, coarse grains, pulses and forage and for establishment of direct ties between agricultural research establishment of the two countries for undertaking joint research and for exchange of young scientists for furtherance of cooperation among scientists and research organisations of both the countries.

Deterioration of soil caused by waterlogging

*115. DR. BAPU KALDATE:

SHRI A. G. KULKARNI:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in the 'Times of India' of 7th June, 1991, regarding World Bank study on deterioration of soil caused by waterlogging and salinity and if so, the details thereof and what is the percentage of cultivable land waterlogged and the loss in the production of food; and

(b) what steps Government propose to take to rectify the damage?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The relevant information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Legislation on construction labour

*116. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Campaign Committee for Central Legislation on con-

struction labour had prepared a draft legislation under the guidance of former Supreme Court Judge Shri V. R. Krishna Iyer and submitted to Government;

(b) if so, whether Government now propose to enact a central legislation on those lines for the welfare of construction labour; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) (SHRI K. RAMA-MURTHY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The details regarding a Central Legislation for Construction Labour are yet to be finalised.

Development of Pigeonpea hybrid

*117. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item entitled 'Pigeonpea hybrid developed' which appeared in the Hindustan Times, New Delhi dated the 25th June, 1991, indicating that the world's first hybrid pigeonpea plant, considered a technological break-through because of pigeonpea's structure designed for self pollination bred by scientists at the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) near Hyderabad has been released for use by farmers in central India; and

(b) what steps Government propose to take to propagate use of this hybrid variety by Indian farmers in view of the fact that India has a significant demand/supply in pigeonpea, which is currently being met by imports?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI BALRAM JAKHAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Front-line demonstrations have been organised and seeds of parental lines have been made available by ICRISAT to

some State Agricultural Universities and seed companies for seed production. A programme for seed production has been undertaken by the National Seeds Corporation, the State Farms Corporation of India and Seed company.

Mass rapid transport system in the country

*118. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what progress has been made with regard to the growing problem of rail-based mass rapid transit system in urban centres in the country; and

(b) what is the amount allocated during the current year and the expenditure incurred during 1990 on construction, maintenance and operation of rail based urban transport systems indicating the names of the urban centres?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SMT. SHEILA KAUL): (a) and (b) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

PROGRESS OF RAIL BASED MASS RAPID TRANSIT SYSTEMS IN URBAN CENTRES IN THE COUNTRY AND ALLOCATION MADE AND EXPENDITURE INCURRED THEREFOR

Considering the importance and criticality of the problems of urban transport faced by the State Governments, the Government of India have played a catalytic role and have financed the suburban and metro rail systems in the four metropolitan cities of Calcutta, Bombay, Madras and Delhi. In Calcutta, 9.7 kms of metro rail has already been commissioned, in addition to the circular rail commissioned in June 1990. Work is in progress in respect of expansion of lines between Andheri and Bandra and extension of rail line from Mankurd to Belapur in New Bombay. Work is also in progress on the Mass