

Irrigation Programme

2613. SHRI HUSEN DALWAI: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government have drawn the master plan for massive irrigation programme in India;

(b) whether Government have any plan to utilise the waters of big rivers in India for irrigation purpose; and

(c) if so, what are the details of irrigation projects proposed to be taken up by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION (SHRI HARI NATH MISHRA): (a) and (b) The Government of India have formulated a conceptual plan of National Perspective for Water Resources Development envisaging creation of storages on various rivers wherever feasible and transferring after meeting the local needs the surplus flows for utilisation in deficit regions by construction of inter-connecting link canals. The overall scheme is expected to give additional benefits of 25 million hectares of irrigation by surface waters, 10 million hectares by increased use of ground waters and also generation of 40 million Kw of power, apart from benefits of flood control, domestic and industrial water supply, navigation, etc.

(c) The above plan is yet to be firmed up after carrying out necessary detailed surveys, investigations and studies which is expected to take more than 10 years. As such, it will not be possible to give details of the projects to be taken up.

Major Irrigation projects during the Seventh Five Year Plan

2614. SHRI HUSEN DALWAI: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION be pleased to state:-

(a) what are the details of major irrigation projects proposed to be included in the Seventh Five Year Plan;

(b) what criteria are fixed for the selection of the sites for these projects and

(c) whether Government propose to reduce the regional imbalance in respect of irrigation potential in the States *inter se*?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION (SHRI HARI NATH MISHRA): (a) to (c) The VIIth Five Year Plan for Irrigation Sector is yet to be finalised. However, the approach to the VIIth Plan accord* priority to the completion of unfinished irrigation projects, particularly those at an advanced stage of implementation and those benefitting poorer regions and regions characterised by low and uncertain rainfall. Further, new starts should; be restricted to medium irrigation projects in drought prone areas and in tribal and backward areas and to minor irrigation schemes.

Appointments in N. F. Railways

2615. SHRI BISWA GOSWAMI: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:-

(a) whether it is a fact that some candidates selected by the Railway Service Commission of the N. F. Railway for category No. 15 and other popular categories have not been appointed so far;

(b) if so, by when they are likely to be appointed; and

(c) the number of candidates who were selected by the Railway Service Commission for category No. 15 and the other popular categories and how many of them have so far been appointed?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHOUDHURY): (a) to (c) The Railway Service Commission, Gauhati had finalised a panel of 790 candidates for Non-Technical Popular Categories in September, 1983. However, arising out of allegations of irregularities in the finalisation of this panel, the selection has been the subject matter of a recent