

The Bihar portion of the project is expected to be completed by 1983-84.

(b) The expenditure incurred till the end of March, 1979 by Bihar was Rs. 223.73 crores.

The reasons for the delay are difficulties in acquisition of land, enlargement of the scope of certain components of the project and inadequate provision of funds.

Programme to observe 50th anniversary of Chittagong Armoury Raid through AIR/Doordarshan

388. SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the fact that the preparations are under way for the observance of the 50th Anniversary of the glorious Chittagong Armoury Raid on April 18, 1930; and

(b) if so, whether the A.I.R./Doordarshan, etc. have been instructed to draw up any programme to observe the anniversary in a befitting manner?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION (SHRI V. P. SATHE): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

The 50th Anniversary of Chittagong Armoury Raid will be provided suitable coverage both by AIR and Doordarshan. Doordarshan Kendra, Calcutta is planning telecast of a documentary featuring rare visual material and reminiscences of personalities associated with the leaders of Chittagong Armoury Raid. Public functions, if any, organised in this connection will also be appropriately covered in the news bulletins.

Sharing of Ganga water between India and Bangladesh

389. SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA:

SHRI LAKSHMANA
MAHAPATRO:

Will the Minister of ENERGY AND IRRIGATION AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of West Bengal has reiterated its demand for altering the agreement in sharing of Ganga water at Farakka between India and Bangladesh;

(b) whether the Government of India had held talks with Bangladesh on the question of reviewing the agreement made in this regard in 1977; and

(c) what are the details in this regard and the outcome of the talks?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND IRRIGATION AND COAL (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Agreement will remain in force for a period of 5 years from November 1977 and provides for reviews—the first review being at the expiry of 3 years and subsequent review six months before the expiry of the Agreement. Steps will be initiated at the appropriate time for the review of the Agreement as envisaged therein.

Payment of bonus to the workers of the Hindi News Agency

390 SHRI S KUMARAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the "Hindustan Samachar" Hindi News Agency has been paid some amount for the payment of bonus to its workers for the period from April, 1978 to June, 1979;

(b) what is the total amount paid on this account;

(c) whether it is a fact that the management has not paid bonus to the workers so far; and

(d) what steps are being taken by Government with regard to the payment of bonus to the workers?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND SUPPLY AND REHABILITATION (SHRI V. P. SATHE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Rs. 45,019.56.

(c) It has been reported by the Agency that a sum of Rs. 7684.80 has been disbursed as bonus to all its workers for the period from 14-4-78 to 30-6-78.

(d) The attention of the Hindustan Samachar has been drawn to the fact that the sum of Rs. 45,019.56 paid was for the period from 14-4-78 to 30-6-79. The Hindustan Samachar has assured that the bonus for the remaining period will also be paid shortly.

Energy policy

391. SHRI YOGENDRA SHARMA:
SHRI LAKSHMANA MAHA-
PATRO:
SHRI BHOLA PRASAD:

Will the Minister of ENERGY AND IRRIGATION AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration for evolving a new energy policy and permitting private sector to generate power; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND IRRIGATION AND COAL (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURY): (a) and (b) There is no general proposal under Government's consideration for evolving a new energy policy specifically for permitting private sector to generate power. The role of private sector as utility in the field of power generation is at present governed by the Industrial Policy Resolution of 1956 under which generation and distribution of electricity is included in Schedule 'A' of the Resolution, which lists industries in which all new units, save where their establishment in the private sector has already been approved, will be set up only by the

State. The Resolution does not preclude the expansion of the existing privately owned units or the possibility of the State securing the co-operation of private enterprise in the establishment of new units when the national interests so require.

Inflated power bills

392. SHRI INDRADEEP SINHA: Will the Minister of ENERGY AND IRRIGATION AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item published in the *Indian Express* of 29th February, 1980 to the effect that inflated power bills are being issued to the consumers in Delhi; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND IRRIGATION AND COAL (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHAUDHURY): (a) Government is aware of the news item.

(b) Delhi Electric Supply Undertaking have reported that they have not issued any inflated bills to the consumers. However, there has been some dislocation in billing the consumers due to introduction of computerisation scheme. Delhi Electric Supply Undertaking have reported that all amounts billed will be adjusted against actual energy consumption, and that no consumer will be put to any hardship. DESU have further confirmed that no employee shall be retrenched as a result of computerisation.

Taking over of State Electricity Boards by the Central Government

393. SHRI KALP NATH RAI: Will the Minister of ENERGY AND IRRIGATION AND COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government are considering to take over the State Electricity Boards in view of their failure to generate power to the required capacity: