

150 sq. ft. at a total price of Rs. 58,577.00 from M/s. Rathi Electricals, Nagpur. In February, 1978, payment was made for this material. In March, 1978, Director-in-charge NTC (Maharashtra North) Limited, Bombay noticed this irregularity during his visit to Nagpur. It was found that this fibre was worth only Rs. 630. Investigation was conducted by the Vigilance Officer of NTC (Maharashtra North) Limited and the excess amount was recovered from the supplier on 7th April, 1978.

(d) The Vigilance Department of the NTC (Maharashtra North) Limited, Bombay are investigating the matter. Pending completion of investigation the concerned Stores Officer has been transferred to Bombay from Nagpur.

Development of the Northern Rivers

*688. SHRI MAHADEO PRASAD VARMA:
SHRI LADLI MOHAN NIGAM:
SHRI ABDUL REHMAN SHEIKH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Planning Commission have finally rejected the "DASTUR PLAN";

(b) whether Government's attention has been drawn to an article written by Major Ranjeet Singh which appeared in *Dharmyug*, a Hindi weekly, dated the 18th June, 1978 for development of Northern rivers especially the Ganges; and

(c) whether Government propose to examine the plan for implementation?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI): (a) The proposals made by Shri Dinshaw J. Dastur to develop the country's water resources are under examination.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. In this article the author has laid stress on the urgency of protection of the Ganga River System from deterioration and has suggested several measures, e.g. soil conservation, desilting of rivers and tanks, afforestation etc. It has also been suggested that small hydro-electric projects, Irrigation canals and groundwater exploitation should receive priority in developing the areas.

Various measures of the kind suggested in the article are already being implemented, investment in soil conservation, afforestation etc. in the catchment areas of Indian rivers will be augmented in the 1978-83 Plan.

पंचेश्वर बांध परियोजना के लिए योजना

†*689. श्री लाखन सिंह : क्या ऊर्जा मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार ने भारत-नेपाल सहयोग परियोजना के रूप में कार्यान्वित की जाने वाली पिथौरागढ़ सीमा-क्षेत्र में प्रस्तावित पंचेश्वर बांध परियोजना को योजना को अन्तिम रूप दे दिया है ; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस परियोजना की मुख्य रूप-रेखा क्या है ?

†[Plan for the Pancheshwar Dam Project

†*689. SHRI LAKHAN SINGH: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have finalized the plan for the proposed Pancheshwar Dam Project in the area bordering Pithoragarh to be taken up as and Indo-Nepal co-operation project; and

(b) if so, what are the broad outlines of the project?]

†Previously Starred Question 539 transferred from the 9th August, 1978.

‡[] English translation.