

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.

ऊर्जा मंत्री (श्री पी० रामचन्द्रन) :

(क) और (ख) दिसम्बर, 1977 में भारत के प्रधान मंत्री को नेपाल यात्रा के दौरान, परियोजना का अन्वेषण संयुक्त रूप से किए जाने के लिए सहमति हुई थी। परियोजना के अन्वेषण के लिए गठित संयुक्त विशेषज्ञ दल की पहली बैठक अप्रैल, 1968 में हुई थी जिसमें यह निर्णय किया गया था कि परियोजना को वर्तमान स्थिति से बढ़ाकर व्यवहार्यता के स्तर तक लाने के लिए आगे आवश्यक अन्वेषण करने के लिए एक संयुक्त तकनीकी टीम का गठन किया जाए। पहले किए गए प्रारम्भिक अध्ययनों के अनुसार, शारदा नदी पर पंचेश्वर में एक बड़े बांध का निर्माण तथा बांध स्थल पर एक विद्युत केन्द्र का निर्माण इस स्कीम में परिकल्पित है।

†[THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI P. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) During the visit of the Prime Minister of India to Nepal in December, 1977, joint investigation of the Project was agreed to. The first meeting of the Joint Experts' Group set up for the investigation of the Project was held in April, 1978 when it was decided to set up a joint technical team for further investigations required for raising the present status of the Project to a feasibility level. According to the preliminary studies made earlier, the scheme envisages the construction of a high dam across the Sharda at Pancheshwar with a dam-site power station.]

Racial incidents in Kuwait

†*690. SHRI SHIVA CHANDRA JHA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there were communal clashes in Kuwait recently in which many Indians were involved;

†[] English translation.

‡Previously Starred Question 600 transferred from the 11th August, 1978.

(b) if so, what are the causes thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that many Indians were forcibly repatriated to India thereafter; and

(d) if so, what remedial steps Government have taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir. However, 206 Indian workers of the associate contractors of Engineering Projects (India) Limited working in the Ardiya Housing Project in Kuwait have recently been brought back to India after ascertaining that they were not willing to work as per the terms and conditions of the contract entered into by them with their respective associate contractors and/or that they indulged in acts of violence during the recent labour trouble in the Ardiya Housing Project during July 12—27, 1978.

(d) Does not arise.

Solar Powered Water Pumping System

1837. DR. LOKESH CHANDRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the United Nations Development Programme has selected India for a pilot project on the development of solar-powered Water pumping system;

(b) what was the outcome of the deliberations of June, 1978 session of the UNDP; and

(c) whether experimentation of the prototypes and marketing survey of the project has been completed?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI MORARJI R. DESAI): (a) to (c) UNDP is desirous of implementing a global project on development and field testing of solar-powered water pumping system involving India,