

**EXPANSION OF RAILWAYS IN NORTH BENGAL**

1154. SHRI SANAT KUMAR RAHA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to expand the railway system in North Bengal ; and

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

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI OJJRESHI) : (a) A and (b) A traffic survey for a new line from Old Malda to Balurghat has been sanctioned. A decision regarding this project would be taken after the results of the traffic survey become known.

**NAGARJUNASAGAR PROJECT**

1155. SHRI PAPI REDDI :

SHRI M. SRINIVASA REDDI:

Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there are any proposals from the Andhra Pradesh Government for taking over of the Nagarjunasagar Project by the Central Government ; and

(b) if so, the decision taken by the Central Government in this regard ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI BAIJ NATH KUREEL) : (a) and (b) No such proposal has recently been received by the Central Government from the Government of Andhra Pradesh. The question of taking over the financing of major projects had been considered on several occasions by the National Development Council during the formulation of the Fourth Plan and it was finally decided that irrigation projects would continue to form part of the developmental plans of States, and that 10% of the total Central assistance to the States would be allocated on the basis of the requirements of continuing major irrigation and power projects.

**VAMSADHARA PROJECT IN ANDHRA PRADESH**

1156. SHRI PAPI REDDY:

SHRI M. SRINIVASA REDDY:

Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under

Government's consideration for constructing the Vamsadhara Project in Srikakulam District in Andhra Pradesh ; and

(b) if so, the present stage of its consideration and by when it is likely to be cleared ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI BAIJ NATH KUREEL) : (a) and (b) The Vamsadhara Project—Stage I proposed by the Government of Andhra Pradesh, estimated to cost Rs. 8.78 crores and irrigate 1.48 lakh acres (including stabilisation of existing avacut of 0.98 lakh acres under existing tanks and open channels) by a 67 miles long canal from the proposed Gotta barrage, was cleared by Planning Commission in February 1972.

**FLOOD CONTROL PROJECTS**

1157. SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of Central assistance sanctioned for the flood control projects of the Erangoli in Dhenkanal and Himkund in Keonjhar, Orissa ;

(b) whether the project reports have been prepared and if not, when these reports are likely to be prepared and finalised ; and

(c) the period likely to be taken in the implementation of the proposal ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI BAIJ NATH KUREEL) : (a) The Rengali Dam on Brahmini and the Bhimkund dam on Baitarni are included in the priority flood control schemes of Orissa for which the Centre has agreed to give financial assistance during the last two years of the fourth Plan with a ceiling of Rs. 10 crores. The central assistance is to be sanctioned after the schemes are approved and programme of works are finalised.

(b) and (c) The project report of Rengali Dam has been recently received at the Centre and is under examination. According to the programme indicated in the report, the project is to be completed in a period of about 6 years. The project report of Bhimkund dam is expected to be finalised by the State Government by the end of September, 1972.