

(b) If so, what is the name of that firm and who is the owner of that firm;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government will incur a loss of Rs. 4 crores as a result of this contract; and

(d) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (DR. K. L. RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The name of the firm is M/s Tara-pore and Co. and it is a registered partnership firm.

(c) The extra cost involved in accepting the tender of this firm, which was the second lowest tender, comes to about Rs. 61-lakhs.

(d) The lowest tenderer is also one of the working contractors on the excavation of the Feeder Canal. He has done so far 12 crores of eft. and has 20 crores eft. of earth work to complete the work assigned to him. This will take nearly three working seasons, on the basis of past performance. The annual output of the lowest tenderer on the contract awarded already is only half of the output of M/s. Tarapore and Co. As the lowest tenderer did not have adequate resources and capability to take up this additional work, he was not considered suitable by the Tender Committee, which went into the question exhaustively and selected the second lowest tenderer to ensure completion of the Canal by June 1973, latest.

CUTS IN FARAKKA BARRAGE SCHEME

*120. SHRI A. P. CHATTERJEE:
SHRI K. P. SUBRAMANIA
MENON : SHRI
NIREN GHOSH:

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

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a report in Jugantar of 21st December, 1970 that there is a proposal to effect further cuts in Farakka Barrage Scheme; and

(b) if so, whether such cuts will affect the ultimate utility of the Scheme?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (DR. K. L. RAO): (a) There is no proposal to effect any cut in the sanctioned scheme of the Farakka Barrage Project.

(b) Does not arise.

INCREASE IN STRENGTH OF JUDGES IN SUPREME COURT

20. SHRI GODEY MURAHARI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to increase the strength of the Judges in the Supreme Court; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

EXPENSES ON P.M.'S TOUR IN CONNECTION WITH ELECTIONS

♦37. SHRI LOKANATH MISRA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of the total expenses incurred by the Government of India on the recent Prime Minister's tour of the country in connection with the election campaign purposes; and

(b) what is the total amount paid as expenses by the Congress Party to Government?

†Transferred from the 29th March, 1971.

♦Transferred from the 30th March, 1971.