

(d) The difference between the lowest tender and the tender accepted after negotiations was Rs. 2.9 lakhs in the total Tendered amount of Rs. 119.3 lakhs.

#### CONSTRUCTION OF BAGMARI SYPHON

257. SHRI SASANKASEKHAR

SANYAL:

SHRI SALIL KUMAR  
GANGULI:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the works for the construction of Bagmari syphon under Farakka Barrage were allotted to a company in 1967 whose tender amount was not the lowest;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof;

(c) whether the company has completed the work within the time limit as per the agreement; and

(ii) what were the reasons for rejecting the lowest tender?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (PROF. SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) In allotting work on the Farakka Barrage Project, the authorities have to take into consideration the tenderers' technical and financial capability to undertake the type of job tendered, their ability to complete the job by the stipulated dates, their resources regarding the right type and number of machinery to be brought to site, requirements of foreign exchange etc. The tenders for all the major works of the Project are considered by a high level Tender Committee of officials, consisting of technical experts and the representatives of the Ministry of Finance and the administrative Ministry. The tenders for the Bagmari Syphon were also accordingly considered by this Committee. After taking the above factors into consideration, the Committee came to the conclusion that it would not be advisable to entrust the work of this magnitude and nature to the lowest tenderer.

(c) The work has been completed in two working seasons as contemplated.

#### JUTE ENQUIRY COMMISSION

258. SHRI SASANKASEKHAR

SANYAL:

SHRI K. P. SUBRAMANIA  
MENON :

SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA :

Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE

be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Jute Enquiry Commission appointed by the former UF Government of West Bengal work before the time led originally;

(ii) whether it is a fact that the Government of West Bengal under the President's Rule, refused to extend its time;

(e) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to fulfil the work for which the Commission was appointed?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (CHOWDHARY RAM SEWAK) : (a) to (d) According to the information furnished by the West Bengal Government, the Jute Enquiry Commission which was appointed for a period of six months, submitted only an interim report within this period. The State Government decided not to grant extension of time to the Commission as it was found that most of the terms of reference to the Commission were outside the jurisdiction of the State Government.

#### RETRENCHMENT OF EMPLOYEES ON ACCOUNT OF DERECOGNITION OF PRINCES

259. SHRI A. P. CHATTERJEE :

SHRI K. P. SUBRAMANIA

MENON :

DR. K. MATHEW K. URIAN :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large number of employees working in places and other estates of the former princes are being retrenched after the decision of the Government to abolish the Privy Purses;

(b) if so, the number of employees affected; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to absorb such employees in other Government services?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI K. C. PANT) : (a) and (b) Government have no information.

(c) As it is a matter of private employment, there is no question of absorbing them in other Government services.