

(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.

Government, however, hope that the former Rulers will assist these employees from this transitional allowances proposed to be paid.

ELECTRIC CONNECTION FOR AGRICULTURAL PURPOSES

260. SHRI DWIJENDRALAL SEN GUPTA : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in West Bengal a farmer can get electrical connection for agricultural purposes only on his agreeing to cash down a sum of rupees two thousands for his electricity bill as an outright payment and not a refundable deposit, to the State Electricity Board;

(b) whether any such payment is required in the case of Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, or any other State for obtaining electrical connection for agricultural purposes; and

(c) how many shallow tube wells have been given electrical connections so far in West Bengal and also in the different States, Statewise?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (PROF. SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD) : (a) A fixed sum of Rs. 2,000 is provided by the West Bengal State Electricity Board for service connection and other charges. The cost of individual connections provided for energisation of wells.

(b) LLK charges and service connection charges collected in the oilier States are in the statement enclosed. [See Appendix LXXIV, Annexure No. 9].

(c) The statement showing the State order of irrigation wells energised is enclosed. [See Appendix LXXIV, Annexure No. 10].

S.T.C.'S SCHEME FOR IMPORT OF CASHEWNUTS

261. SHRI O. GOPINATHAN NAIR : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Trading Corporation has finalised its Scheme for the import and distribution of cashewnuts; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (CHOWDHURY RAM SEWAK) : (a)

and (b) Arrangements for the import of raw nuts from Kenya and Mozambique have been finalised, while those for Tanzania, are still in progress. The Scheme for distribution of cashewnuts is being worked out.

NEW PROCESS FOR BLEACHING HESSIAN

262. DR. K. MATHEW KURIAN : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Indian Jute Industries 'Research Association' has developed a new process for bleaching Hessian which will vastly improve the export potential of decorative and furnishing jute fabrics;

(b) whether the Government of India have decided to finance NUJUTE, the subsidiary set up by IJIRA in the U.S.A. for licensing the use of this process; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (CHOWDHURY RAM SEWAK) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Grant-in-aid at the following rates had been agreed to be given to the Association:

| | |
|------------------|---------------------------------|
| 196F—75% of a | subject to a ceiling of |
| Rs. 5 lakhs. | |
| 1969—50 | to Rs. |
| of B | lakhs. |
| 197C—25— | of deficit subject to a ceiling |
| of Rs. 10 lakhs. | |

IRRIGATION PROJECTS IN STATES

263. SHRI SITARAM JAIPURIA : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have urged upon the State Governments to complete the irrigation projects within the Fourth Plan period;

(b) If so, what is the reaction of the State Governments thereto; and

(c) the names of the irrigation projects in each State which are at continuing stage?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (PROF. SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD) : (a) and (b) Irrigation is a State subject. The planning, investigation, formulation and execution of irrigation projects is done by the State Governments keeping