

Since the leaders of the TULF were not present in Colombo during the second visit, these proposals will be discussed with them by the Special Envoy.

Performance of Rural Employment Generation Programme

611. SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the State-wise progress of the Rural Employment Generation Programme in physical and financial terms to-date since January, 1980; and

(b) whether Government are satisfied with the progress achieved so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI HARI NATHA MISRA):

(a) The state-wise progress under National Rural Employment Programme in physical and financial terms since inception is given in the enclosed statement [See Appendix CXXVIII Annexure No. 24].

(b) In the Sixth Five Year Plan annual generation of 300 to 400 million mandays under National Rural Employment Programme has been indicated for the country as a whole. This target has been achieved every year since inception of this programme and it is expected that it will also be achieved during 1983-84.

National Rural Employment Generation Programme

612. SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state the State-wise monetary and food-grains assistance given by the Central Government on account of National Rural Employment Generation Programme year-wise, from 1980-81 to 1983-84?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI HARI NATHA MISRA): A statement indicating state-wise position of central assistance given as cash funds and food-grains under National Rural Employment Programme during the years 1980-81 to 1983-84 is enclosed. [See Appendix CXXVIII, Annexure No. 25].

Education Budget

611. SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of EDUCATION AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the academic circles in the country have urged Government to allocate at least 10 per cent of central budgetary expenses for education;

(b) whether Government have any plan to increase budgetary allocation for education; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF EDUCATION, CULTURE AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRIMATI SHEILA KAUL): (a) to (c) There have been suggestions from various quarters to increase budgetary provisions for education. Investment in education has indeed been steadily increasing. However, every effort is made to secure further increases.

Agreement on Construction cost of Second Hooghly Bridge

614. SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have reached an agreement with the Government of West Bengal on the construction cost for the Second Hooghly bridge; and