

Acquisition of land for the Indian Air Force at Allahabad

2172. SHRI BHOLA PRASAD; Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government have acquired land in village Bhagwatpur Chayal and Abdul Baharpur Chayal in Allahabad for the Indian Air Force Bamrauli;

(b) if so, what are the details in the regard including the terms and conditions of acquisition;

(c) whether any compensation has been paid to the villagers in this behalf; and

(d) if not, what are the reasons therefor and what steps are being taken to pay compensation or return of the lands to their owners?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Grant of industrial loans in backward regions of Assam

2173. SHRI AJIT KUMAR SHARMA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased, to state whether it is a fact that the whole of the State of Assam has not been declared as a backward region for the purpose of issuing industrial loans; if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (KUMARI ABHA MAITI): Seven districts of Assam viz., Cachar, Goalpara, Kamrup, Mirkir Hills, North Cachar Hills, Nowgong and New Lakhimpur have been selected as industrially backward to qualify for concessional finance from term-lending financial institutions. The remaining 3 districts of Assam, viz., Darrang, Sibsagar and Dibrugarh did not qualify for selection as industrially backward as their indices of industrialisation were

higher than the average for the State as a whole.

Power demand in the country

2174. SHRI BALRAM DAS: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government are aware of the increase in the power demand in the country for which the State Electricity Boards are required to put up new thermal power stations or else to expand the existing capacity of power stations;

(b) what steps Government propose to take to ensure that coal supplies for the new installations will match the power generation programme; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to build up reserves of coal in the country as thermal power generating schemes are getting held up for want of coal?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI P. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Standing Linkage Committee set up by the Government in January '73 meets regularly to review the coal supplies to existing and new thermal power stations to match

the power generation programme. The Committee comprises representatives of the Ministry of Railways, Central Electricity Authority, the Planning Commission, the Coal producing organisations, the Department of Coal, the Department of Industries and Civil Supplies, Central Fuel Research Institute, Central Mine Planning and Design Institute. Besides the regular periodical meetings of the Standing Linkage Committee, special meetings are also being held as and when necessary to give clearance to new thermal power stations from coal availability angle.

(c) Government has already taken necessary steps for exploring coal