

(iii) Farakka in the Eastern Region.

(iv) Neyveli and Ramagundam in the Southern Region.

*388. [Transferred to the 2nd April, 1976.]

Production of Essential Commodities

*389. SHRI SANAT KUMAR RAHA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state what steps Government have taken for production of essential commodities and their supply to the under-developed area and under privileged people during the emergency period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

Production of Essential Commodities

For the purpose of public distribution system, Government have indentified 17 essential commodities. These include agricultural commodities as well as manufactured articles. The steps taken for production of agricultural commodities relate to various aspects such as research, extension, inputs etc. As regards manufactured commodities, steps taken for production include fuller utilisation of installed capacity, streamlining the licensing procedure, improved supply of power and other inputs.

For supply of essential commodities so as to reach under developed areas and under-privileged people, States have been advised to expand the public distribution system. In doing so, States have been requested to give priority to vulnerable areas like labour concentration in mining, industrial and plantation areas hill areas and rural areas in the districts which are chronically scarcity affected and the coverage of vulnerable and poor section of the population. Furthermore, steps were taken to monitor the

availability, movement and prices of essential commodities.

Group Insurance Scheme for Coal Mine Workers

*390. SHRI BHUPESH GUPTA:
SHRI JAHARLAL BANERJEE:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to introduce any scheme for group insurance for coal mine workers in case of fatal and serious accidents;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the matter is under discussion with the authorities of the Life Insurance Corporation; and

(d) what are the reasons for delay in introducing this scheme?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI K. C. PANT) : (a) and (b) Coal India Limited, a public sector undertaking, under the Ministry of Energy, is examining the outlines of a scheme for group insurance for coalmine workers in case of fatal and serious accidents.

(c) and (d) The matter is still under discussion between the Coal India Limited and the Life Insurance Corporation of India.

Rural Electrification in Maharashtra

554. SHRI DEORAO PATIL: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the percentage of rural population in Maharashtra which is covered by the rural electrification schemes sanctioned by the Rural Electrification Corporation; and

(b) what further steps are being taken to boost up rural electrification in the State?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (PROF. SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD): (a) About 15 per cent of the total rural