

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Government propose to Indianise these companies in accordance with the guidelines issued under the Foreign Exchange Regulations Act.]

Mini-newsprint mills in the country

250. DR. RAMKRIPAL SINHA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up mini-newsprint plants in the country;

(b) whether these plants are proposed to be set up in the public sector or in private sector; and

(c) whether Government propose to set up such plants in north of Bihar where agricultural residue like straws, cane and jute-sticks are available in abundance?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM): (a) to (c) Two applications from private parties for the setting up of mini newsprint plants have been received and are under consideration. There is at present no proposal to set up such a plant in Bihar.

Paper mills in Joint Sector

251. DR. RAMKRIPAL SINHA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had decided to set up two paper mills in joint sector. One in U.P. and another in M.P.; and

(b) if so, what is the progress made so far in this regard and what steps Government propose to take to augment the production of paper in the country?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Details regarding financing and pattern of management are being considered by

Government in consultation with the private parties concerned. No final decision has yet been taken.

Government are taking action for the creation of additional capacity both in the public and private sectors. A number of projects with a total capacity of 20 lakh tonnes per annum have been approved in the private sector and a capacity of about 2 lakh tonnes per annum is proposed to be set up in the public sector.

Brahmaputra-Ganga Link

252. SHRI NIREN GHOSH: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Dr. Kapil Bhattacharya submitted any blue print for Brahmaputra-Ganga Link;

(b) if so, what are the details of the blue print;

(c) whether Shri Dibesh Mukherji made any feasible study of Brahmaputra-Ganga Link;

(d) if so, what are the details thereof;

(e) whether Government propose to undertake the project; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) to (d) Government are not aware of any proposals for a Brahmaputra-Ganga link made by Dr. Kapil Bhattacharya or Shri Dibesh Mukherji.

(e) and (f) Do not arise.

Completion of Feeder Canal of Farakka Barrage Projects

253. SHRI NIREN GHOSH: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) by when the feeder canal of Farakka Barrage project is likely to be completed;

(b) by when the Ganga water is likely to begin to flush the Bhagirath-Hoogly river system to save the navigability of the Calcutta Port;