

POWER/सिंचाई और विद्युत मंत्री be pleased to state:

(a) what are the schemes in hand for the development of Purulia District in West Bengal in the matter of irrigation and power;

(b) whether it is a fact that the District falls in the category of backward area; and

(c) if so, what special treatment that District is entitled to get for its development?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER/सिंचाई और विद्युत मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (SHRI BAIJ NATH KUREEL): (a) The following eight irrigation schemes are in hand:—

- (1) Tara Irrigation Scheme.
- (2) Kulberia Irrigation Scheme.
- (3) Kensai Irrigation Scheme.
- (4) Fakidi Irrigation Scheme.
- (5) Sankha Irrigation Scheme.
- (6) Puljhere Irrigation Scheme.
- (7) Krishtobazar Irrigation Scheme.
- (8) Shaharajore Medium Irrigation Scheme

The Santaldih Thermal Power Station under construction is located in Purulia District.

(b) and (c) Purulia District is one of the 54 districts included for special works programme of the Ministry of Agriculture for chronically drought-affected areas. The following works have been taken up by the Government of West Bengal under this programme:—

- (1) Dangara Irrigation Scheme.
- (2) Bandajore Irrigation Scheme.
- (3) Kumari Irrigation Scheme.
- (4) Rupai Irrigation Scheme.
- (5) Majra Irrigation Scheme.
- (6) Bandhu Irrigation Scheme.

POWER DEVELOPMENT PLAN

33. DR. B.N. ANTANI: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER/सिंचाई और विद्युत मंत्री be pleased to state:

(a) whether power development plan for 1971—81 drawn by Government has run into rough weather as the specialists in power development feel that the plan is a departure from the recommendations made by many Committees and subsequently endorsed by independent foreign experts;

(b) if so, the salient features of the plan drawn by Government and of the main controversial points of the experts; and

(c) whether the differences have since been resolved?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER/सिंचाई और विद्युत मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री (SHRI BAIJ NATH KUREEL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

SHORTAGE OF CEMENT

34. SHRI N.K. KRISHAN :

SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT/औद्योगिक विकास मंत्री be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is an acute shortage of cement in the country; and

(b) if so, the reasons thereof and steps taken to meet the shortage?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT/औद्योगिक विकास मंत्रालय में उपमंत्री

(PROF. SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD) : (a) and (b) There has been local shortages of cement in certain regions in the country due to a spurt in the demand. Usually, the period between May—September is a busy season when the demand for cement increases. Maximum efforts are being made for the movement of cement to the deficit regions. The full requirements of these regions could not be met due to shortage of wagons and non-availability of steamers. In addition, power and coal shortages have also affected the production and despatch schedules.

All cement producers have been alerted to expedite despatches to meet full requirements. Railway authorities have also been asked to provide additional wagons for movement of cement. Movement has also been allowed for longer distances by road as well as by steamer as a temporary measure to get over the problem of shortage.

WEST BENGAL REQUEST FOR TAKE OVER OF INDUSTRIAL UNITS.

35. SHRI M.K. MOHTA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT/औद्योगिक विकास मंत्री be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of West Bengal have requested the Government of India to take over the management of certain industrial units in the State; and