

Investigation Units for Irrigation and Power Projects

*266. { Shri Bahadur Singh:
Shri L. N. Mishra:

Will the Minister of Planning be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have directed the various States to establish the "investigation units" to undertake preliminary work in respect of irrigation and power projects to be included in the Third Five-Year Plan; and

(b) the States that have established such units?

The Deputy Minister of Planning (Shri S. N. Mishra): (a) Yes, Sir. The Planning Commission has addressed the States in this regard.

(b) The replies so far received indicate that investigation units have been established in U.P., Bihar, Punjab, Kerala, Tripura and Manipur (by the C.W. & P.C. in case of the last two States).

Paper Mill at Kesinga (Orissa)

*267. Shri P. K. Deo: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state the number of acres of private land that will be acquired for the construction of paper mill at Kesinga in Orissa?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Satish Chandra): M/s. Straw Products Ltd., who have been granted a licence for the establishment of a paper mill at Kesinga, have estimated their land requirements at 600 acres and have stated that it would be acquired through the Government of Orissa.

Increase in Radio-activity

*268. { Shri Bharucha:
Shrimati Ila Palchoudhury:

Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been invited to reports

in the Press of increasing radio-activity in the country calculated to affect adversely the health of the people;

(b) whether any appreciable increase in radio-activity has been perceptible in any part of the country in the course of the last two years;

(c) whether any particular part of the country is more perceptibly affected than other parts; and

(d) what is the strongest concentration of radio-activity so far encountered in any town or area and how far removed is such concentration from doses calculated to cause harm, genetic or physiological, to human organisms?

The Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs (Shri Jawaharlal Nehru): (a) Yes.

(b) Yes, in the country as a whole.

(c) No.

(d) The highest concentration of radioactivity in the air was recorded in Bombay on the 23rd of April 1957, the magnitude of which was about 17 micromicrocuries per cubic meter of the air. The harmful dose of fission products in the air is 200 micromicrocuries per cubic meter if it persists for a long time. The radioactive matter falling on the ground was maximum for the season about the same date. The magnitude was 1.7 millicuries per square kilometer of the ground as recorded in Bombay. This is a very small fraction of the harmful dose.

Effect of Radiation

*269. Shri S. C. Samanta: Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state:

(a) how many Indian expert scientists joined the W.H.O. experts at Copenhagen in August last to discuss the effect of radiation on human heredity; and

(b) whether the details of their warning against nuclear energy will be placed on the Table of the Sabha?