

(c) the backward districts in West Bengal for which the State Government have prepared district plans; and the broad outlines of the district plan prepared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI MOHAN DHARIA): (a) and (b). The Planning Commission has offered methodological assistance to all states including West Bengal in the preparation of district plans particularly for backward regions. Guidelines for the formulation of District Plans have been made available to all States for this purpose.

The Planning Commission has also introduced a scheme of Central assistance under which the States would get two-thirds of the additional expenditure which they might incur on the strengthening of State planning machinery. The pattern of strengthening of the Planning Departments as suggested by the Planning Commission includes the setting up of a district/area planning unit at the State level whose functions would be provide assistance to the district administration in preparing district and area plans particularly for the backward regions.

(c) No district plans have as yet been received from the Government of West Bengal.

Beggars in India on the Basis of Census

6033. SHRI GADADHAR SAHA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of beggars in India according to 1961 and 1971 census; and

(b) what are the causes of rise in the number of beggars?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI F. H. MOHSIN): (a) The number of persons who returned themselves as beggars, vagarants etc., at the 1961 census were 861,793. The corresponding figure, so far available for the 1971 census, estimated from 1 per cent sample data is 747,397.

(b) Does not arise in view of (a).

Cement and Paper Pulp Industries in Manipur

6054. SHRI N. TOMBI SINGH:
SHRI DASARATHA DEB:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Manipur sought clearance for the setting up of cement and paper pulp industries in Manipur from the Central Government;

(b) if so, whether the Central Government have given clearance;

(c) if so, the outlines thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d). The Government of Manipur had proposed the setting up of a pulp and paper and a cement plant in the State. A feasibility report for the cement plant was prepared by the Cement Corporation of India. The feasibility report envisaged the setting up of a plant with the capacity of 50 tonnes per day at an estimated cost of Rs. 170.30 lakhs. The techno-economic examination of the report however indicated that the cement plant in Manipur would not be economically viable and it was, therefore, decided to drop the proposal. The Government of Manipur was also informed accordingly on 19th October, 1972.