

**Border Road Employees of GREF**

3501. SHRI A. NEELALOHITHADASAN NADAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that even after making clear by the Ministry of Shipping and Transport that the Border Road Employees of GREF are governed by civil service rules, the military officials supervising them are using the powers conferred on them as per Army Act of 1950 and the Army rule of 1954:

(b) how many Border Road Employees are put in Tezpur Central Jail of Assam by the Military officials using those powers; and

(c) whether the Central Government propose to take steps for the release of those employees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI C. P. N. SINGH): (a) The General Reserve Engineer Force consists mainly of civilian employees and some Defence Services personnel taken on loan. Except where otherwise provided, the civilian employees are governed by the Civil Service Regulations as applicable to non-industrial civilians of the Defence Services. In addition, certain provisions of the Army Act, 1950, and the Army Rules, 1954, have been applied to them for the purpose of discipline. The disciplinary powers conferred by these provisions are exercised by the military as well as the civilian officials of the Force.

(b) and (c). Twenty-five civilian employees were sent to civil jail, Tezpur, in pursuance of Court Martial proceedings. Three of them have since been released on expiry of their term of imprisonment and eighteen transferred to civil jail, Varanasi, by the State Government authorities. Government do not propose to intervene in the matter.

**Bagasse Paper based Industry in North Bihar**

3502. SHRI HARI NATH MISRA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to a research paper sentitled 'Industrial Programmes for Fourth Plan, Bihar' published by the National Council of Applied Economic Research, 1967;

(b) whether referring to the industrialisation of North Bihar, the publication concludes 'North Bihar seems to be ideally situated for location of bagasse based paper mills in the country';

(c) whether it is a fact that the region north of the Ganga in Bihar is one of the most densely populated, has almost no industry and its *per capita* income is one of the lowest in the country; and

(d) if the answer to (a), (b) and (c) be in the affirmative, what steps have been taken, or are proposed to be taken for the establishment of bagasse based paper mills in North Bihar belt inhabited by more than 3 crores of people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI CHARANJIT CHANANA): (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. It has been recognised that North Bihar is industrially backward and has potential for setting up a paper plant based on bagasse.

(d) Hindustan paper Corporation have carried out an investigation into the possibilities of setting up of a paper/newsprint plant utilising the bagasse which could be made available from sugar mills located around Bettiah in North Bihar and a pre-feasibility report has also been prepared. The details of the economics of the proposal