

Bengal had written a letter dated 4th December, 1979 to the Chairman and Managing Director, Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Ltd. wherein he clearly mentioned that the West Bengal Industrial Development Corporation was immediately in a position to offer 10,000 to 15,000 sq. ft. in a building located in the business centre of Calcutta and some land would be available in the Salt Lake area for construction of an office as well as a residential complex;

(b) whether he is aware about the fact that the West Bengal Government have offered them further space i.e. a total of 26,000 sq. ft. in Poddar Court, in Calcutta;

(c) whether he is also aware that HFC have not responded to that offer; and

(d) the reaction of Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM, CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) to (d). The H. F. C. received a letter dated 4th December, 1979 from the Government of West Bengal as mentioned in part (a) of the question. This was followed up by an offer of 10,000 sq. ft. of office accommodation from West Bengal Industrial Development Corporation in Poddar Court, Calcutta in December, 1979. Since the area offered was short of the requirements for the Corporate Office of H.F.C. and was also not locationally suitable, the H.F.C. did not pursue the offer. When H.F.C. responded to an advertiser in a local paper in March, 1980 offering accommodation of 26,000 sq. ft., they found that the advertiser was the WBIDC and that the accommodation was in the same building. Meanwhile, pending disposal of certain representations received by Government against the shifting of the head office of H.F.C. to Calcutta, H.F.C. have been asked not to make any financial commitment in this regard.

Irrigation Projects in U.P.

1021. SHRI K. M. MADHUKAR: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) is it a fact that some of the irrigation projects in U.P. suffered in their progress due to scarcity of cement, steel and explosives;

(b) if so, the steps Government have taken so far to supply the required materials; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION (SHRI KEDAR PANDAY): (a) to (c). The information is being collected from the State Government and will be laid on the Table of the House when received.

Gandak Project in Bihar

1022. SHRI K. M. MADHUKAR: Will the Minister of IRRIGATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Head-Quarters of a Chief Engineer, Gandak Project is located at Motihari in the District of East Champaran;

(b) if so, how many workers of all categories work there;

(c) is it a fact that all these persons have no living quarters for them.

(d) if so, is it hampering the smooth running of Gandak Project;

(e) if so, in what time Government propose to build the quarters for workmen of all categories there;

(f) how many workers of all grades have their own quarters; and

(g) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION (SHRI KEDAR PANDAY): (a) to (g). The information is being collected from the State Government and will be laid on the Table of the House on receipt.