

(a) whether it is a fact that one thousand and five hundred labourers are facing starvation due to closure of Bengal Paper Mill at Raniganj in West Bengal since a long time :

(b) if so, whether Government of West Bengal have sent a proposal for its take over by the Union Government ;

(c) if so, the details thereof ; and

(d) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (d). The Bengal Paper Mills is lying closed from 1.11.1983. The State Government had suggested in May, 1984, that the Central Government might take over the management of the Company. Since the Financial Institutions had worked out a rehabilitation scheme for the revival of the unit, the State Government was informed that it was not considered expedient to take over the management of the Company.

The Financial Institutions have reported that they are exploring the possibility of rehabilitating the unit *inter-alia* by way of merger with another healthy unit and on the basis of certain reliefs/concessions to be extended to the unit by the Institutions, Central Government and State Government. The Central Government have recently agreed to a major portion of the arrears of excise duty being paid by the unit in instalments as part of the rehabilitation package.

Commemorative Postal Stamps Regarding Centenary of Indian National Congress

3166. SYED SHAHABUDDIN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any commemorative stamps were designed and printed to mark the centenary of the birth of Indian National Congress ;

(b) if so, the particulars thereof and the expenditure incurred thereon ;

(c) whether those stamps have been issued/sold to the public ; and

(d) if not, the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) Yes Sir, commemorative stamps were designed and printed to mark the centenary of Indian National Congress.

(b) These commemorative stamps consisted of a set of four stamps of 100 P. denomination each. The expenditure incurred on these stamps amounts to Rs. 4,51,081/-.

(c) Yes, Sir, these stamps have been issued/sold to the public.

(d) Does not arise in view of answer to 'c' above.

[Translation]

Waiting list for LPG Connections in U.P.

3167. SHRI JAGANNATH PRASAD: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of persons in waiting list for cooking gas connections in Uttar Pradesh ;

(b) the steps taken by the Government to ensure that cooking gas connections are given to them soon ; and

(c) when they are likely to get cooking connections ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH): (a) About 6.45 lakhs.

(b) and (c). Release of new connections in the country including Uttar Pradesh is made under the annual enrolment programme of the oil industry and is determined by augmentation in availability of LPG, bottling capacity, transportation and other infrastructure facilities.

[English]

Generation of Electricity through Harnessing wind Millson Konkan Coast

3168. PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state: