

(a) whether the National Hydroelectric Power Corporation is taking up an ambitious scheme to strengthen the transmission network in the Northern region;

(b) if so, the total amount that will be spent for implementing the scheme;

(c) the main points of the scheme;

(d) the extent to which it will help to strengthen the transmission network; and

(e) whether the World Bank has been approached for financing the transmission system network?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRIMATI SUSHILA ROHTAGI): (a) to (e). The National Hydro-Electric Power Corporation (NHPC) have formulated a scheme, at an estimated cost of about Rs. 1065 crores, for the strengthening of the Northern Regional Transmission system. The scheme comprises construction of Extra High Voltage Transmission lines from Nathpa -- Jhakri (Himachal Pradesh) to Bhiwani via Kol Dam (Himachal Pradesh), Abdullapur (Haryana) and Bawana (Delhi); from Bhiwani to Jaipur (Rajasthan); and from Manpur (Jammu & Kashmir) to Bhiwani via Moga (Punjab). The proposed transmission system would facilitate the transfer of power from Hydro-electric projects located in the States of Jammu & Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh, to other beneficiary States in the Northern Region. Preliminary discussions have been held between NHPC and World Bank representatives for financing the project through World Bank assistance.

Industrially Backward Districts Scheme

9437. SHRI DIGVIJAY SINH: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Centrally declared industrially backward districts scheme has been scrapped;

(b) whether it has resulted in decrease

in the total population taking advantage of this scheme; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (c). The Central Incentives Scheme for Industrialisation of backward areas is being extended upto 30th September, 1988.

[Translation]

Crisis in Cement Units

9438. SHRI BALWANT SINGH
RAMOOWALIA:
SHRI PRAKASH CHANDRA:
SHRI SRI HARI RAO:
SHRI M. RAGHUMA REDDY:
SHRI RAM DHAN:
SHRIMATI BASAVARAJES-
WARI:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the news item captioned 'Cement units face crisis' appearing in the 'Indian Express' dated 4 April, 1988;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard;

(c) the new measures likely to be taken by Government to overcome crisis in this industry; and

(d) the scheme being implemented by Government to give relief to the industry in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b). The news item appearing in the 'Indian Express' dated 4th April, 1988 is based on the conjecture that the estimated production of 44 million tonnes for the year 1988-89 would have a surplus of about 3 million tonnes over the expected demand.