

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) It was not anticipated that the country would be self-sufficient in newsprint by the end of the Fifth Five Year Plan. As against a demand of over 2 lakh tonnes per annum it is expected that only the expansion scheme of the National Newsprint and Paper Mills raising its capacity to 75,000 tonnes per annum and the Kerala Newsprint Project of the Hindustan Paper Corporation Ltd. for a capacity of 80,000 tonnes per annum would be commissioned by the end of the Fifth Five Year Plan. Although a large number of letters of intent have been issued to various parties, it is too early to assess when these schemes are likely to fructify, as arrangements for sustained supply of raw material are to be made and the economic viability of the schemes considered carefully.

(b) Government is encouraging by its liberalised licensing policy entrepreneurs both in private and joint sectors to set up paper industry whenever such applications are received.

Establishment of a Salt Manufacturing Industry

1275. **SHRI M. A. HANNAN ALHAJ:** Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to establish salt manufacturing industry in West Bengal;

(b) if so, the outline of the proposal;

(c) whether keeping in view the backwardness of Sunderban in 24 Pargana District, Government propose to open a unit of the said industry there; and

(d) if so, when?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (d). The State Government of West Bengal have constituted a Study Team

consisting of the representatives of the Salt Commissioner, Geological Survey of India, Sunderban Development Board, District Magistrate, 24 Parganas, M/s. Bengal Salt Company Limited, Director, Cottage and Small Scale Industries, West Bengal and Director of Industries to explore the possibility of salt extraction through the Solar Evaporation Process in the Sunderbans area. The State Government of West Bengal have constituted another Study Team consisting of various representatives of different Departments including representative of the Salt Commissioner for exploring the possibility of Salt extraction in Contal area. The reports of the Study Teams are awaited.

Sabotage in power plants of D.V.C.

1276. **SHRI YADVENDRA DUTT:** Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been sabotage in the power plants of D.V.C.;

(b) if so, what steps Government are taking to find out the saboteurs and punish them; and

(c) what action Government propose to take so that in future none of the D.V.C. plants is sabotaged by the anti-social elements?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI P. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) On October, 13, 1977 the guage glasses of seven gear boxes of coal mills of Units I and II of Chandrapura Thermal Power Station were found broken, and there is strong suspicion that the damage was the result of sabotage.

(b) The matter is being enquired into.

(c) D.V.C have tightened the security measures at their power stations in consultation with the Bihar Government.