

industry to the effect that 'the scope for expansion in this industry is limited';

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto; and

(c) possible repercussions of the policy on the economy of West Bengal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI ABHA MAITI): (a) to (c). The Planning Commission's observation that there is little scope for further expansion in jute industry, is based on the existence of large under-utilised capacity in the country which is due mainly to uncertain availability of raw jute and fluctuating demand for jute goods.

In view of the fact that out of the total 68 jute mills in the country, 56 are already located in West Bengal, there is not likely to be any effect on the economy of West Bengal in case there is no further expansion in jute industry.

Assistance for Development of Sunderban Area of West Bengal

8915. SHRI MUKUNDA MANDAL: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of West Bengal have submitted any proposal for the grant of Central assistance for the development of Sunderban areas of West Bengal; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the attitude of the Government thereto?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI MORARJI DESAI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Structure for District Industrial Centres

8916. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the proposed organisation structure for District Industrial Centres and when will the first Centre be opened;

(b) do Government consider it feasible to float these centres as autonomous government companies with minority shareholding of small and cottage industries in the district on the basis of one unit one share; and

(c) which are the districts identified for opening these centres in the first phase?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI ABHA MAITI): (a) Each District Industries Centre will be headed by a General Manager assisted by 7 Functional Managers of various disciplines who will look after activities such as Economic Investigation, Machinery and Equipment, Research, Extension and Training, Raw Material, Credit, Marketing, KVIC and RAP. The first phase covering over 100 centres will start functioning from May, 1978.

(b) No, Sir. The DIC Scheme will be a departmental activity implemented by the State Governments through the Industries department.

(c) The proposals earlier received for setting up 138 District Industries Centres in 10 States and 2 Union Territories have been approved by the Government. Further proposals received from 7 States are under examination, and approval will be issued shortly.