

Industrialisation of Sunderbans

2554. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Sunderbans District in West Bengal has been included in the list of backward area in the country ; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor and whether Government would consider the need for including this District also in the investment subsidy scheme ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI CHARANJIT CHANANA) :

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Sunderbans District did not qualify for being declared industrially backward when evaluated by the Planning Commission on the basis of data supplied by the State Government along criteria laid down for this purpose.

The Report of the National Committee on the Development of Backward Areas on Industrial Dispersal bearing on revised criteria for declaration of industrially backward districts/areas is under consideration in the Planning Commission in consultation with State Governments, concerned Ministries and financial institutions. Any change in the existing districts/areas would depend on the decision taken on the recommendations of the Committee and order of Government thereon.

Packing Bags for Cement

2555. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the cement manufacturers are at present using old and mutilated bags for packing of

cement with the result that lot of cement is not only lost and wasted in transit but also these bags are susceptible of being pilfered easily thus creating black-market for this scarce commodity ;

(b) whether the jute mill industry which is presently facing an acute demand recession will be benefited if Government makes it mandatory for the cement manufacturers to use new bags apart from plugging wastage of this construction material which is in short supply; and

(c) the steps which Government propose to take in the matter ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI CHARANJIT CHANANA) :(a) to (c). Under the provisions of the Cement Central Order, 1967, as amended from time to time the Government of India permits the use of serviceable second-hand heavy cement bags for packing of cement. The percentage of use of serviceable Second hand jute bags for packing cement for the quarter commencing 1st July, 1981 is only 20%. With a view to minimising seepage of cement through use of jute bags for packing cement, Cement Research Institute has developed an improved version of such bags with better weaving pattern which is proposed to be adopted for packing cement. With the adoption of the improved version of jute bags by the cement industry seepage is expected to be minimised substantially. Any increase in the use of new bags for packing cement is likely to benefit the jute industry.

VIP Industrial Centres

2556. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the write-up captioned 'VIP Industrial Centres' appearing under the heading 'TRADE WINDS'