

Plan programmes of the North Eastern Council. The North Eastern Council is financing the construction of road bridge over the River Brahmaputra near Bhomoraguri (Tezpur) at an estimated cost of Rs. 67 crores. They are financing a survey for another rail-cum-road bridge across Brahmaputra at Dibrugarh.

The North Eastern Council took the initiative to get the traffic-cum-engineering survey for eight railways lines (211 kms) completed during the Fifth Plan Period, Six of these railway links have been sanctioned for execution. The North Eastern Council is also financing during the Sixth Plan surveys for construction/extension of other railway lines the broad gauge line from Jagi road to Badarpur, metre-gauge line from Kumarghat to Agartala updating survey of Board gauge line from Panchratnaghat to Gauhati and survey of broad gauge line Chaparmukh to Dibrugarh; metre-gauge line from Laiaghat to Vairangte; metre gauge line from Dimapur to Chemukdima; the metre gauge line from Lekhapani to Kharsang and the metre-gauge line from Jiribam to Makru.

Meetings of North Eastern Council held in 1980 and 1981

1602. SHRI AJOY BISWAS : Will the Minister of FCME AFFAIRS be pleased to state .

(a) how many meetings of the North Eastern Council have been held during 1980 and 1981 ;

(b) whether Government have drawn any schemes to strengthen the NEC so that the Council can play a vital role for the development of North Eastern Region, and

(c) if so, the details of these schemes ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR) : (a) During 1980 and

1981 four meetings of North Eastern Council have been held.

(b) and (c) The North Eastern Council which came into existence by an Act of Parliament (NEC Act, 1971) has well defined functions to perform. It is to serve as an advisory body for promoting development of the Region in the field of economic and social planning, inter-state transport & communication, power and flood control and to formulate unified and coordinated regional plans for ensuring balanced development. The Council is duly performing these functions and no change in its structure is deemed necessary at present.

Revision of Sixth Plan outlay

1603. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken a decision to revise the Sixth Plan outlay ;

(b) if so, what would be the amount of revised Sixth Plan outlay ; and

(c) the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN) : (a) to (c) A mid-term appraisal of the Sixth Plan is in progress. Any revision of outlay for the Plan would have to be considered only after this appraisal is completed.

Short Supply of Power to Mini Steel Plants

1604. SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA :
SHRI MOHAN LAL PATEL :

Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that certain mini-steel plant units in different

parts of the country are facing acute shortage of power and are facing a great hardship to survive

(b) if so, the number of such plants in the country, State-wise from whom complaints have been received ;

(c) the number of plants closed down, State-wise due to shortage of power ; and

(d) what measures are being taken to supply the requirements of power to mini-steel plants to save this industry ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI) : (a) to (c). It has come to the notice of the Government that in some states Mini Steel Plants are not getting adequate supply of power. No specific complaints have, however, been received in this regard. Government are also not aware of closure of any unit only due to non-supply of power.

(d) Power being a State subject the Department of Steel has requested the State Governments to supply adequate power to mini Steel Plants.

Outlines of New Electronics Policy

1605. **SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA :**
SHRI NAVINRAVANI :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considering to announce the outlines of the new electronics policy in the country ; and

(b) if so, when it is likely to be announced and how it will help the country ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELE-

TRONICS (SHRI M. S. SANJEEVA RAO) : (a) No. Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Van Mahotsava Programme in Bokaro Steel Plant.

1606. **SHRI N. E. HORO :** Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Bokaro Steel Plant and the Demodar Valley Corporation have jointly decided to launch a Van Mahotsava Programme with a target of planting nine lakh trees on the bank of Ganga reservoir ;

(b) if so, the total cost anticipated to be spent each by the BSL and the DVC ; and

(c) whether financial provisions have been anticipated in their respective budgets ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI) : (a) to (c) Bokaro Steel Plant has offered approximately 2,000 acres of land to take up afforestation on the banks of Garga Reservoir. This will help reduce siltation of Garga Dam Reservoir and check soil erosion on the bank of river Garga. DVC had agreed to this offer. Details of the afforestation programme and its anticipated cost are being collected from DVC and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Cement Plants in Bihar

1607. **SHRI N. E. HORO :** Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of cement plants working in the private and public sector in Bihar and the names thereof ;