

**Site for Thermal Power Project in  
North Bengal**

3979. SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURY :  
SHRI R. N. BARMAN :

Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the selection of site for a proposed 200 M. W.  $\frac{1}{2}$  Thermal Power Project in North Bengal has been made;

(b) if so, the estimated cost of the said project;

(c) whether his Ministry propose to consider any site near Cooch-Bihar town where all facilities are available for the said Thermal Project; and

(d) if so, the name of the town likely to be considered and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. N. KUREEL): (a) The West Bengal State authorities have sent proposals for setting up a 240 M.W. thermal power station in North Bengal intended for power supply to North Bengal and North Bihar. Two sites have been proposed, one at Khejuria-ghat near Farakka and the other near Old Malda Town.

The Bihar State authorities have also sent up a proposal for a 220 M. W. thermal power station for meeting the requirements of North Bengal and North Bihar. Three or four alternative sites, at and around Katihar have been indicated.

Both these project reports as well as some other sites which may serve both North Bengal and North Bihar together, are under consideration.

(b) The estimated cost of scheme put up by West Bengal is Rs. 47.08 crores for Khejuria-ghat site and Rs. 47.50 crores for Old Malda Town site, and Rs. 46.11 crores for Bihar.

(c) No site is being considered near Cooch-Bihar at present.

(d) The distance of Cooch-Bihar from coal sources and the railway facilities available

make location of a large thermal power station in the area uneconomical compared to power obtainable from hydro and thermal projects in adjoining areas.

**Industries in Backward Areas of  
West Bengal**

3980. SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURY :  
Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Planning Commission has formulated schemes to start Industries in the backward Districts of West Bengal, namely, Cooch-Bihar, Darjeeling, Maldah, West Dinajpur Purulia and recommended to his Ministry for implementation of those schemes; and

(b) if so, the main features of those schemes District-wise along with the proposed capital investment ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD) : (a) and (b). The Planning Commission have selected some backward districts for the purpose of grant of concessional finance from the financial institutions for setting up industries there. The districts of Cooch-Bihar, Darjeeling, Maldah, West Dinajpur, Purulia, Bankura, Midnapur and Murshidabad in West Bengal are among them. The names of these backward districts have been intimated to the financial institutions and entrepreneurs can approach them direct for grant of concessional finance. The Planning Commission have not formulated or recommended any specific industrial project for these districts. Industries started in the District of Purulia would also qualify for the 10 per cent investment subsidy under a scheme which is to be introduced shortly.

**Paper Mill in North Bengal**

3981. SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURY :  
Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have finalised the scheme to start a Paper Mill in North Bengal in the Public Sector;

(b) whether Government have received Technical Report that North Bengal has enough raw materials to support such industry; and