

increase the production of items which are currently in short supply and are likely to be in short supply for some time to come.

The import policy concerning the import of industrial raw materials is also being reviewed from time to time by the Standing Internal Departmental Committee to meet the short-term scarcity conditions. The import policy of 1971-72 contains special provisions for import of items which are in world short-supply. The industries which are affected due to short supply of raw-materials arising from the world shortage are being permitted to apply for import of raw materials for over a period of six months at a time.

The import policy also provides for review of entitlements of Actual Users. Cases of Actual Users, in which it is established that the operation of existing import policy has caused undue hardship and is likely to affect industrial production, are considered for imports by the Sub-Committee under the C.C.I and E.

#### Industries in Meghalaya

528. SHRI DINESH CHANDER GOSWAMI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that in the entire South bank of river Brahmaputra in the District of Kamrup and the State of Meghalaya there is no industry in spite of rich mineral potentials;

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take to develop the potential industries of this region; and

(c) if no steps are being contemplated, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI GHANSHYAM OZA) :  
(a) to (c). For an overall assessment and fuller utilisation of the natural resources that are available in the North-Eastern region, including Assam and Meghalaya, three working groups viz. (i) Agro-based industries, (ii) Forest based industries and (iii) Coal and Natural Gas or generally for

mineral based industries were set up under the auspices of the Standing Committee of the Eastern Zonal Council, to conduct detailed studies on the integrated industrial potential of the region. On the basis of these studies, it is proposed to draw up a coordinated plan for the integrated industrial development of the region. The reports of the Working Group are currently under the consideration of the Standing Committee of the Eastern Zonal Council. It may be added that provision for a cinnamon oil project and provision for investigation, survey, preparation of feasibility reports etc., have been made in Meghalaya's 4th Plan programme. Besides, the Ministry of Industrial Development had also recently sent a study team to explore possibilities of setting up industries in Meghalaya. It is hoped that as a result of these measures some industries will be set up in Meghalaya and the Kamrup region.

#### Closure of Newspapers in Assam due to Non-Availability of Newsprint

529. SHRI DINESH CHANDER GOSWAMI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that many newspapers in Assam are facing closure due to non-availability of newsprint; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to make newsprints available to the newspaper industry, in Assam ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SIDHESHWAR PRASAD) :

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

#### Assistance by West Germany in Nozzle Separation Process of Uranium

530. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA : Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of West Germany have offered assistance to the Indian scientists to tell the secretary of nozzle separation process of uranium;