

Scarcity of Power in Eastern Districts of Uttar Pradesh

2222. SHRI B. R. SHUKLA : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is widespread scarcity of power in the Eastern Districts of Uttar Pradesh and incidence of power failures is alarming;

(b) whether in view of the identification of most of the districts in the region as industrially backward areas, Government propose to improve the generation of power there; and

(c) if so, the outline of the proposal, and if not, how Government propose to industrialise the areas ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. N. KUREEL) : (a) There is a general scarcity of power in the whole of Uttar Pradesh as the generation of power has not been keeping pace with the growing demand for it by agriculture and industry and this is affecting the eastern districts also. There have been a few power failures caused by faults on transmission lines during recent months but their incidence has not been heavy.

(b) and (c). 300 MW of additional generating capacity are being added at Obra Thermal Power Station where three generating units of 100 MW each are scheduled for commissioning within the Fourth Plan. A further 1,400 MW of thermal generating capacity has been proposed to be added within the decade plan 1971-81 in Eastern Uttar Pradesh.

Looting of Passengers in Sealdah Division on Sundays

2223. SHRI S. P. BHATTACHARYYA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the increase in the inci-

dence of snatching away of purses and valuables from Railway passengers on the Sealdah Railway Station on Sundays by a gang which operates between Sealdah and Dum-Dum Junction on Eastern Railway;

(b) whether G. R. P. has failed to check these incidents;

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

(d) the steps taken by Government to ensure security of the passengers ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI K. HANUMANTHAIYA) : (a) Yes, there has been a slight increase in such incidents on Sundays.

(b) Govt. Railway Police has not quite failed because such incidents have shown an overall decreasing trend in 1971 (Upto October) as compared to 1970.

(c) and (d). The following steps have been taken :

(i) Special pickets including plain clothes staff have been posted at different plague spots/areas as well as in trains to watch the movement of the criminals.

(ii) Govt. Railway Police escorts are provided on important night passenger trains.

(iii) Strict instructions have been issued to the Railway Protection Force staff, on duty in yards or station platforms for guarding railway property, to rush to the scene of crime and render all possible help to the victims.

Scarcity of Irrigation Water in Flood-Affected Areas of Howrah, West Bengal

2224. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the acute scarcity of irri-