

turn of the Corporation. Due to reduction of work in the NPCC Central workshop at Agra, 48 workmen who were found surplus had to be retrenched. These workmen have been paid retrenchment compensation and benefits admissible under the Uttar Pradesh Industrial Disputes Act. In addition they were paid wages for 3 months and 15 days as ex-gratia. These retrenched workmen have accepted these terms.

**Central Assistance to Kerala for
Power Projects**

3958. SHRIMATI BHARGAVI THAN-KAPPAN : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) the amount proposed to be given by the Central Government to the State of Kerala for power projects in the State during the Fourth Five Year Plan; and

(b) the amount actually given by the Central Government to the State of Kerala ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. N. KUREEL) : (a) Since the commencement of the Fourth Plan, Central Assistance to State Plan schemes is being given in the form of block loans and grants towards their overall Plan expenditure and not for any specific projects. The total Central Assistance allotted to Kerala for the Fourth Plan is Rs. 175 crores. In addition, loan assistance outside the State Plan is also given under the Centrally — sponsored scheme for construction of inter-State transmission lines based on actual expenditure.

(b) The Central assistance given to Kerala upto the end of 1971-72 is Rs. 97.68 crores for State Plan schemes. Rs. 0.55 crores were given to the State for inter-State transmission lines under the Centrally-sponsored schemes.

Closure of Cashew Factories in Kerala

3959 SHRIMATI BHARGAVI THAN-KAPPAN : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) the number of cashew factories closed down in Kerala during 1970-71 and by the end of 1971;

(b) the reasons for their closure; and

(c) the number of factories reopened and what action is being taken in regard to the remaining ones ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : (a) 251 cashew factories were closed in Kerala during 1970-71 and 34 factories remained closed by the end of 1971.

(b) The salient reasons were :

- (i) Want of raw cashew nuts; and
- (ii) Financial stringency.

(c) 217 factories re-opened in 1971. A loan of Rs. 20 lakhs to Kerala Government, and 90 days' credit of Rs. 20 lakhs to Kerala State Cashew Development Corporation, have been made available to help reopen, the closed factories.

**New Plan to improve Export Trade
of Cashew and Pepper**

3960. SHRIMATI BHARGAVI THAN-KAPPAN : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) the total amount of foreign exchange earned by Government during the last three years by export of cashew and pepper; and

(b) whether Government have any new plan to improve the export trade in regard to cashew and pepper, and if so, an outline thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : (a)

(In crores of Rs.)

Year	Cashew Exports	Pepper Exports	Total
1969-70	57.42	16.2	73.62
1970-71	52.06	15.2	67.26
1971-72	61.73	14.8	76.53
(Provisional)	171.21	46.2	217.41