

श्रीयोगिक विकास मंत्रालय में उप-मंत्री (श्री सिद्धेश्वर प्रसाद) : जी, नहीं। क्षेत्र में कच्चा माल उपलब्ध न होने के कारण मूल परियोजना को कार्यान्वित नहीं किया जा सका। संग्रहकर्तक कम्पनी ने तब कारोबार बन्द कर दिया। नई योजना के अन्तर्गत, आवश्यक कच्चा माल अर्थात् लकड़ी की लुगदी उत्तरी बिहार की 40 मी० टन प्रति-दिन क्षमता वाली कागज परियोजना के लिए असम से संभरित की जायेगी। इससे 850 आदमियों को रोजगार मिलेगा ?

Opening of Telegraph Sub-Division at Samastipur

539. SHRI RAM BHAGAT PASWAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any representations have been received from the public to open a Telegraph sub-Division at Samastipur (North Bihar); and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI H. N. BAHUGUNA):
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The proposal is under examination.

Development of Hill Areas

540. SHRI M. M. JOSHEP: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any measures to give special attention to the development of the hill areas in the country; and

(b) if so, the outlines of the measures taken and the progress made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI MOHAN DHARIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) the Planning Commission have constituted a Committee of Direction

for the development of the hill areas of Uttar Pradesh under the Chairmanship of Dr. B. S. Minhas, Member, Planning Commission. This Committee includes the representatives of the State Government, Planning Commission and Ministry of Agriculture. On the recommendations of this Committee the State Government has initiated a number of surveys and investigations in the hill areas of Uttar Pradesh.

A Hill Areas Cell has also been set up in the Planning Commission which will primarily be concerned with the undertaking studies which would help in the formulation of integrated plans for the hill areas of the Himalayan Region.

Quantum of Ex-gratia Payments to Former Rulers

541. SHRI M. M. JOSEPH:
SHRI ARJUN SETHI:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken a decision to pay a maximum of one year's privy purse under the scheme of *ex-gratia* payments to former Rulers; and

(b) if so, the main points thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI K. C. PANTI): (a) and (b). A statement giving the details of the scheme for payment of *ex-gratia* amounts to the former Rulers is attached.

STATEMENT

The *ex-gratia* payments will be made on a sliding scale and within certain maximum limits which have been carefully considered. Small former Rulers who constitute the majority will get comparative more e.g., those drawing below Rs. 15,000 are proposed to be paid eight times their privy purse. Likewise, those