

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI K. BRAHMANNANDA REDDY): (a) Yes, Sir,

(b) As has already been stated in this House the threat to our borders is not only on our land frontiers, but also along our extensive sea coast.

(c) The reference is presumably to the constitutional provisions of articles 158 and 359 in this regard. These are, however, enabling powers only and the extent to which they have been actually made use of by the Government can be best seen on an overall review of the working of the Emergency. The objective facts of our day-to-day life, the way public speeches are made, the tempo of agitations and the free functioning of diverse institutions in our public life would together constitute conclusive proof that the fundamental rights are under no threat in this country.

Help to Small Scale Industries through Raw Material Bank

8926. **SHRI GAJADHAR MAJHI:** Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to help small scale industries in each State through the Raw Material Bank; and

(b) if so, the facts thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI A. P. SHARMA): (a) and (b). Scarce raw materials such as Iron and Steel items are being canalised through the State Small Industries Corporations located in various States and Union Territories. These Corporations have their depots at different places in the respective States. A statement showing Small Industries Development Corporations set up so far is attached.

Statement

States:

1. Andhra Pradesh.
2. Assam.
3. West Bengal.
4. Bihar.
5. Kerala.
6. Gujarat.
7. Madhya Pradesh.
8. Maharashtra.
9. Karnataka
10. Orissa.
11. Punjab.
12. Rajasthan.
13. Uttar Pradesh.
14. Tamil Nadu.
15. Haryana.
16. Himachal Pradesh.
17. Tripura.
18. Manipur.
19. Jammu and Kashmir.

Union Territory :

1. Delhi.

Backward Taluks in Pudukottai District of Tamil Nadu

8927. **SHRI THA KIRUTTINAN:** Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the backward Taluks in the newly formed Pudukottai District in Tamil Nadu;

(b) the extent and population of the backward Taluks in that district;

(c) whether a backward area of Thangavur district has been included in this district and if so, the extent and population of this area;

(d) whether the Government of Tamil Nadu have recommended to the Centre that the whole Pudukot-

tal District should be declared as Backward district; and

(e) if so, the action taken by Central Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA): (a) to (c). Information has been asked from the State Government and will be laid on the Table of the House when the same is received.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The Government of India have declared the whole Pudukkottai district as backward for making it eligible for concessional finance from the financial institutions.

Expansion of Talchar Thermal Power Station

8928. SHRI D. K. PANDA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to go forward with the expansion programme of Talchar Thermal Power Station; and

(b) if so, the main features thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (PROF. SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD): (a) and (b). Extension of the Talchar Thermal Power Station with 2 units of 110 MW each has already been sanctioned and the work is in progress.

Development of Hilly Areas

8929. PROF. NARAIN CHAND PARASHAR: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Committee of the National Development Council had identified the Hill areas and stressed

the need to pay special attention to their development in 1966;

(b) if so, whether any priority has been given in the plans to the sanction of the new Railway Lines in the Hill States of Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Meghalaya, Manipur, Tripura, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, Mizoram and the hill regions of other States so as to provide the necessary infrastructure for industrial development;

(c) if so, the names of the Railway lines which have been sanctioned or constructed since 1966 to date; and

(d) whether the new Railway lines on which the construction work had been inaugurated in these States would be given priority in the matter of allocation of funds for early completion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA): (a) Yes, Sir. A Committee of the National Development Council had identified the hill areas and stressed the need for special attention to their development in March, 1965.

(b) In considering new railway line project which involve large capita outlays, priority is generally given to such lines which are task oriented and connected with core sectors of the economy, like iron ore, coal, steel etc. Besides taking into account their traffic and financial justification, the role of the railway line projects in improving transport facilities in hilly or backward areas, is also considered.

(c) and (d). In recent years, the following new railway lines and gauge conversion projects have been approved which are expected to improve accessibility to hill areas:

(i) Construction of Jammu-Kathua BG railway line.