

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTION
8256—57

Counter Agitation in Assam

*346. SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a counter agitation has been launched in Assam;

(b) whether, as a result of this, many persons were killed;

(c) whether Government have ensured that arms are not being smuggled into Assam from across the border through the river route; and

(d) if so, what progress has been achieved in containing violence in the North-East region?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
(SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA):

(a) and (b). 'Demands Day' was observed on May 26, 1980 in different parts of Assam on the call given by the All Assam Minorities Students Union. Processions were taken out in the district of Gopalpara, Nowgong, Kamrup and Darrang on that day to submit memoranda to district officials. The supporters of All Assam Students Union and All Assam Gana Sangram Parishad made attempts to prevent the processionists from submitting their memoranda. Consequently, violent clashes ensured, as a result of which 51 persons lost their lives.

(c) Government has taken all possible steps to ensure that arms are not smuggled into Assam from across the border through river route.

(d) The situation in North-East region is under constant review.

Incentives for paper Industry

*352. SHRI M. V. CHANDRA-SHEKHARA MURTHY:
SHRI P. M. SAYEED:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Industry Ministry has mooted a proposal for opening a soft loan window for the paper industry;

(b) if so, whether this proposal is being processed by the Union Finance Ministry at present;

(c) whether any final decision in this regard has been taken;

(d) whether it is also a fact that the lack of fresh investment forthcoming into paper industry is also evident;

(e) if so, what are the main reasons for this, a

(f) what other benefits and incentives are being considered by Government to be given to the paper industry for improvement of paper manufacturing in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI
CHARANJIT CHANANA): (a) to (c). In April, 1979, the Ministry of Industry had recommended for consideration of the Industrial Development Bank of India that the Paper Industry may be included for financial under the Soft Loan Scheme. Industrial Development Bank of India have decided that the Soft Loan Scheme might continue in its present form for the time being and the position would be reviewed before the end of this year.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) The Paper Industry has been registering a steady growth of capacity

in the last few years, as indicated below:

Year (as on 1st January)	Capacity (in lakh tones)
1976	11.03
1977	11.37
1978	12.65
1979	13.80
1980	15.38

However, Government have offered the following incentives to encourage growth of further capacity.

- (i) The facility of imports of second hand paper plants has been allowed upto a capacity of 30 tonnes per day.
- (ii) The import of pulp has been liberalised.
- (iii) The import duty on waste paper used for paper making has been waived.
- (iv) Excise rebates have been allowed to small paper mills for the use of unconventional raw material.
- (v) Special incentives have been offered for the utilisation of bagasse for paper making.

There are no specific proposals at present to offer any further benefits to the paper industry which is by and large, enjoying a fair degree of profitability.

Regularisation of Employees in Ordnance Factories in West Bengal removed in 1971 and taken back

*358. SHRI MOHAMMAD ISMAIL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether representations have been received for regularisation of services of certain employees of Ordnance Factories of West Bengal who were removed from service in 1971 and subsequently taken back, for the purpose of service benefits like pension, gratuity and other retirement benefits; and

(b) whether Government are taking steps to see that these employees who have rendered long years of service in the Defence Factories are not denied their retirement benefits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI C. P. N. SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. One representation was received from the Hon'ble Member in January 1980 on behalf of the employees.

(b) No, Sir. The Hon'ble Member was informed about the Government decision on 15th March 1980 that it would not be possible to accede to this request.

Overall Growth rate in Industry

*359. SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state the overall growth rate of industry during January to May, 1980 and the corresponding period in the year 1979?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI CHARANJIT CHANANA): The data for the rate of growth of industrial production as compiled by the Central Statistical Organisation is available for the period January to March, 1980. For February and March, 1980, only the quick index of industrial production is available.

The rate of growth of industrial production during January—March 1980 over the corresponding period of the previous year is 4.0 percent. However, data for 132 DGTD industries which is available upto April, 1980 shows that 67 industries have recorded positive rates of growth in January—April 1980 as compared with the corresponding period of the previous year.

Allotment of steel and raw materials on the basis of installed capacity

*360. SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether State Government of West Bengal has urged upon the Union