

details come, we will give full consideration to these two project applications.

**SHRI P. NAMGYAL:** May I know what is the present position regarding availability of cement in the country and what steps Government propose to take for timely supply of cement to the land-locked areas like Ladakh where because of road blockade, we are not getting timely supply of cement?

**SHRI CHARANJIT CHANANA:** I can only give you the figures of production for the last few months from July, 1980—July 14.46, August 15.13, September 15.29 and October 16.17

(अवधान)

अध्यक्ष महोदय: अब बहुत हो गया, 10 मिनट हो गए हैं।

(अवधान)

अध्यक्ष महोदय: आप इसमें ज्यादा करते हैं तो हाफ एन आवर डिस्कशन रखो।

**SHRI CHARANJIT CHANANA:** As far as transport bottleneck in Ladakh area is concerned, we are taking all measures to see that cement is supplied to them. This is a priority area and we give top priority to it.

**SHRI K. LAKKAPPA:** There are several factors responsible for the shortage of cement. I would like that the shortages are minimised to the extent possible and the distribution system of cement is streamlined. I would like to know whether he has got any information that the manufactures of cement have appointed their own agents for distribution. Will the Minister consider taking over the distribution system throughout the country and see hat the distribuion of cement is sreamlined? Then only he can minimise the shortages at least by 150 per cent.

**SHRI CHARANJIT CHANANA:** We will give due consideration to the suggestion of the hon. member.

### Special Cell for development of North Eastern Region

\*328. **SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN-DEV:** Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of India propose to start a 'Special Cell' in its Industry Department to boost up the economic and industrial development of the North Eastern region; and

(b) if so, what are the "Industrial Units" to be taken up by the proposed Cell?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI CHARANJIT CHANANA):** (a) & (b) No, Sir. Government have however decided to set up a special Group to deal with the problems relating to small, scale industrial units located in the industrial estates in the States and Union Territories of the North-East region, with a view to identify the problems of individual units, their raw meterial and financial requirements and make such arrangements as are necessary to enable these units to function well as early as possible.

**SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV:** I am neither surprised nor shocked at the answer of the Minister, because my question has a background. In this House, when we had occasion to discuss the Assam budget on three occasions, all members, irrespective of their parties, said that the one of the reasons for the present turmoil in Assam is economic backwardness and all demanded that there should be industrial development there. After taking oath as Member of Parliament, I wrote letters to the Minister on 5th April, 14th May and 3rd July. One of them was forwarded by the Prime Minister to the Minister for action. All of them are being looked into and I have received no reply as yet. In view of this, I feel the Minister has no time to look after the interets of the north-eastern region. So, I say that there should be a special cell for looking after the industrial development of the north-eastern region. Either the Minister should give an assurance that

[Shri Sontosh Mohan Dev]

he will devote more time for the development of the north-eastern region or he should open a separate cell to look into the problems of the north-eastern region. May I know whether he is agreeable to that, because in the north-eastern region, there is large scope for industries. So, will he reconsider his decision and create a special cell in the industries department to look after the development of industries in the north-eastern region?

SHRI CHARANJIT CHANANA: The hon. Prime Minister has constituted a committee of Ministers to look into all the possible measures which can be taken to promote the best possible economic development of the north-eastern region. It was in that Committee of Ministers on 11th November, 1980 that a decision was taken to appoint a special group. That special group with the Ministry of Home Affairs being the nodal Ministry, is looking into the implementation of the plans and schemes finalised by the States as also the Committee of Ministers on a top priority level.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Is the hon. Minister aware of the fact that when late Mohan Haq Chaudhary was the Industry Minister there was a study group which studied the industrial scope of the recognised industrially backward district of Cachar? If so, what steps does his ministry propose to take as per the report of that study group?

SHRI CHARANJIT CHANANA: That study group is within our knowledge. That is not the only thing for the Cachar District. We are getting area to area techno-economic studies done. It is done by the inter-ministerial group. Action plants are also being finalised along with that. This includes Cachar District also.

SHRI SUNIL MAITRA: Tripura has got plenty of raw materials for setting up a paper mill. For the last two years or more, the Chief Minister of Tripura has been appealing to the Government of India to set up a paper mill in Tripura. Has the Government of India

cleared that project or accepted the proposal of the Tripura Government?

SHRI CHARANJIT CHANANA: The Tripura people had a discussion with me personally. The availability of raw material off-hand is not the statement on which paper mills can be set up. A proper feasibility study has to be conducted for not only assessing the available raw material but also seeing that it is not only that deforestation takes place but along with it, re-generation of plants of the forest should be there. Because you do not set up the paper mill just to deforest the forest resources which Tripura has...

SHRI SUNIL MAITRA: How does deforestation come into the picture in the setting up of a paper mill?

SHRI CHARANJIT CHANANA: I thought the hon. Member knew that Tripura paper plant was based on forest as the raw material for making pulp out of which paper would be made. Unless and until you have re-generation plants, the forest should not be touched at all. The Tripura Government, in fact, is working on the details of those and the Government of India would welcome any viable and feasible project to set up a paper mill, paper being a priority industry in the country.

SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY: I do not want this industry or that industry. I want to know as to how many years the hon. Minister will take to develop that region so that it may come upto the all - India level?

SHRI CHARANJIT CHANANA: The hon. Member's question is very relevant. But that relevant question only lacks one thing and that is, you cannot sum up the number of years and say that in so many years that total economic development would take place. I can only say that we are working on plans and we would take all the steps to accelerate the economic development in this area to the optimum level.