

SHRI VIRBHADRA SINGH: Even in hilly areas there are some areas which are more hilly and backward and remote.

According to the present norms laid down by the R.E.C. these areas do not qualify for assistance from the R.E.C. I would like to know whether the Government has modified the norms in respect of these backward and hilly areas, so as to enable them to get assistance from the R.E.C. In the reply given by the hon. Minister, he has mentioned that as on 31-3-80, 50 schemes have already been approved in respect of Himachal Pradesh. I want to know how much money has actually been disbursed so far.

SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN: I request the hon. Member to see Annexure II where the information is given. As on 31-3-80, Himachal Pradesh has been given a loan of Rs. 604.805 lakhs. This is the figure regarding loan already disbursed. This is in Annexure II. In Annexure I, I have given information in respect of certain other categories. I have already given this figure.

Sharing of Power from Thein Dam

*218. **SHRI CHIRANJI LAL SHARMA:** Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have considered the request of Rajasthan and Haryana Governments for sharing the power benefits accruing from the Thein Dam Project; and

(b) if so, the result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN): (a) and (b). In a meeting taken by the Prime Minister on 14-2-1979 with the Chief Ministers of the concerned States, the Prime Minister felt that since the issues are to be decided on the basis of legal rights, he would take the opinion of the Attorney General of India regarding the entitlement of Rajasthan and Haryana for a share in the power benefits from the

Thein Dam Project. The Attorney General has given his opinion, which has analysed all aspects of the issues involved. A final view in the matter is yet to be taken.

SHRI CHIRANJI LAL SHARMA: May I know from the hon. Minister whether, after the change of the political set-up in the country after February 1979, any meeting of the two Chief Ministers of Rajasthan and Haryana was called by the Prime Minister... (An hon. Member, Punjab also) along with Punjab Chief Minister. Secondly I want to know when the Thein Dam project is likely to be completed. Thirdly I want to know this. The hon. Minister has stated that the Attorney General has given his opinion.

May I know when this information was received by the Government of India? What action has been taken by the Government on the opinion of the Attorney General? Why has this projected scheme been unnecessarily delayed?

SHRI VIKRAM MAHAJAN: The project is likely to be completed in the Seventh Five Year Plan. So far as the opinion of the Attorney General is concerned, I have stated in my reply that a final view is to be taken. So far as the date is concerned, it was given on 2nd May 1979 and about the meeting of the Chief Minister, I will find out.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS.

पाकिस्तान द्वारा तेल की सप्लाई

* 208. श्री निहाल सिंह : क्या पेट्रो-लियम, रसायन और उर्वरक मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या एक लाख टन तेल सप्लाई के लिए भारत सरकार और पाकिस्तान के बीच जनवरी, 1981 में कोई समझौता हुआ था ; और

(ख) यदि हाँ, तो उपर्युक्त समझौते की शर्तें क्या हैं ?