

Setting up of industries in Dinajpur, West Bengal

*199 DR. GOLAM YAZDANI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether West Dinajpur district in West Bengal has been declared to be an Industrial District;

(b) if so, the reason thereof though there is no industry; and

(c) whether there is any possibility of setting up of any industry there depending on raw materials there?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI): (a) to (c). West Dinajpur districts of West Bengal is recognized as one of the industrially backward districts of the country and is eligible for concessional finance from financial institutions. However, it has not been included in the list of districts having no large/medium scale industries as there is a paper mill at Raiganj in this district in the medium sector. A number of candidate industries having prospects in the area have been identified by the District Industries Centre located at West Dinajpur.

News item "Bihar—Saboteurs Paradise"

*200. SHRI HARINATHA MISRA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item under the caption "Bihar-saboteurs paradise", as published in the "Times of India" dated June 2, 1982;

(b) whether securing necessary explosives presents no major obstacles to anti-social elements wishing to blow up bridges or indulging in other destructive activities, and they have only to go to Dhanbad, Ranchi, or Chaibasa, where there are over 200 authorised

dealers, many of whom are always willing to oblige them;

(c) whether over 30,000 detonators, which are even more powerful than dynamite sticks, were found packed in cases recovered from a hotel room at Dhanbad recently;

(d) whether the biggest haul of explosive was made from a river-bed in Palamau in April last year and as much as 31 tonnes of explosive material was unearthed; and

(e) if so, the remedial measures taken or proposed to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI NIHAJ RANJAN LASKAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government have seen the allegation made in the news item. Some specific cases of seizure of explosives are mentioned in parts (c) and (d) below.

(c) and (d) According to information received from Government of Bihar, 42,000 detonators were seized from Raj Hotel situated in Mohalla Basepur under Dhanbad Police Station in April, 1982. In May, 1981 large quantities of explosives were recovered on the bank of river Oranga about one kilometer from Manika Police Station and near siumi nallah, one kilometer inside jungle from the Road between Chandwa and Latehar on Ranchi-Daltonganj Road. Two police cases under Section 4 of the Explosive Substances Act—one each in Latehar and Chandwa Police Station and another case under Section 5 of the Indian Explosive Act in Dhanbad Police Station have been instituted and are under investigation.

(e) Special drives have been organised to trace out criminals and anti-social elements suspected of using such explosive for unlawful purposes. Constant vigilance is being maintained by the concerned agencies in this regard.