

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a), No, Sir.

(b) and (c). The information is not available.

Floods in Madhya Pradesh

*439. **SHRI NARENDRA SINGH:**

Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the assessment made about the damage caused due to recent floods in Madhya Pradesh; and

(b) the steps taken by Government in consultation with the State Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) and (b). No assessment of damage due to floods in the State, during the current monsoon, has so far been received from the Government of Madhya Pradesh.

Lay Off by Management of Bengal Paper Mill, Raniganj (West Bengal)

*440 **SHRI ROBIN SEN:**

Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the lay-off declared by the management of Bengal Paper Mill at Raniganj in West Bengal resulting in hundreds of workers becoming unemployed; and

(b) the reasons for not taking prompt steps against the management for not taking back the workers in their employment?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND SCIENCE AND

TECHNOLOGY AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM): (a) and (b). Government's attention has been drawn to the labour unrest and the consequent under-utilisation of capacity in the Bengal Paper Mill at Raniganj. The lay-off is reported to have been recently withdrawn and efforts are being made by the State Government to restore normalcy.

Brahmaputra-Ganga Link

*441. **SHRI S. N. SINGH DEO:**

Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Dr. Kapil Bhattacharya submitted any blue print for Brahmaputra-Ganga link;

(b) whether Shri Debesh Mukherji made any feasibility study of Brahmaputra-Ganga link; and

(c) if so, what are the main features thereof?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI K. C. PANTH): (a) to (c). No specific schemes or blue prints for the Brahmaputra-Ganga Link have been submitted to the Government by Dr. Kapil Bhattacharya or Shri Debesh Mukherji.

However, the attention of the Government has been drawn to an article written by Dr. Kapil Bhattacharya in 1951 suggesting a Brahmaputra Ganga navigable canal link.

Similarly, attention of the Government has been drawn to some studies stated to have been made in the fifties by Shri Debesh Mukherji on the Brahmaputra-Ganga link as also to an article written by him in 1972 suggesting the linking of the Brahmaputra, the Tista and the Ganga. The main idea contained in this suggestion is