

in the month of July, 1971 there was some demonstration at Lumding by a group of employees led by the unrecognised Coordination Committee.

(b) The demands of the workers are—

- (i) regular supply of water in Railway colonies at Lumding; and
- (ii) electrification of all railway quarters at Lumding.

(c) Efforts are being made to improve the position by better maintenance.

Closing Down of Veli Station in Kerala

*1550. SHRI A K GOPALAN :
SHRI VAYALAR RAVI .

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decided to close down the Veli Railway Station in Trivandrum District, Kerala; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI HANUMANTHAIA) : (a) No, Sir. It has been decided to shift the train halt from its existing site at Km. 818/77 to a new site at Km. 821/1.

(b) The train halt has been working at loss at its present site. The shifting will serve the area better and minimise the loss.

Irrigation Development in Tumkur District of Mysore State

*1551. SHRI K. LAKKAPPA : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government of Mysore have formulated any plan for irrigation development in Tumkur District of Mysore State ;

(b) if so, the main features thereof ; and

(c) the funds allocated for the purpose ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (DR. K. L. RAO) : (a) to (c). The Government of Mysore have proposed the construction of the Utara Pinakini dam to irrigate 5600 acres. The project is pending with the State Government for replies to comments sent in November, 1968. Possibilities of extension of irrigation from the existing Mangala and Marconahalli projects are under investigation, as also new minor irrigation works.

Rural Industries Projects Programme in West Bengal

*1552. SHRI SUBODH HANSDA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether any work has started in West Bengal under the Rural Industries Projects Programme during the Fourth Five-Year Plan and in which areas ; and

(b) whether any special allotment of funds, and raw materials for developing the existing and new industries in project areas has been sanctioned or is proposed to be sanctioned on the recommendations of the project officers ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY) : (a) Yes, Sir. Four areas viz., Baraset (in 24—Parganas) ; Durgapur (in Burdwan District) ; Siliguri (in Darjeeling District) ; and Tamulak (in Midnapur District) have been taken up under the Rural Industries Projects Programme.

(b) Rural Industries Projects programme is a Centrally Sponsored Scheme under which States are given cent per cent Central assistance. During the period 1962-63 to 1970-71 Central assistance amounting to Rs. 88.72 lakhs comprising of Rs. 59.75 lakhs as grants and Rs. 28.97 lakhs as loans has been released to the Government of West Bengal for implementing the Programme. During 1970-71 a special allocation of scarce indigenous and imported raw material was earmarked for the Rural Industries Projects areas.

Shortage of Low Watt Electric Lamps

*1553. SHRI ESWARA REDDY : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :