

DEVELOPMENT (AUDYOGIK VIKAS MANTRI) (SHRI MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY) : (a) Bata Shoe Company Pvt. Ltd. Calcutta closed down their factory at Batanagar with effect from 25th April, 1971. It was not a case of lock-out.

(b) The factory was closed down on account of labour trouble.

(c) As a result of closure, the Company terminated the Services of the Workmen in the factory. The number of Permanent workmen affected was about 11500.

(d) The estimated production loss of the Company during the period the factory was closed was 7 lakhs pairs of shoes per week.

(e) Conciliation proceedings were initiated immediately after the closure by the State Labour authorities who held a series of discussions with the Management with a view to secure the re-opening of the factory. As a result of these efforts, the factory was re-opened on 17th May, 1971.

Linking of Ganges in North and Cauvery in South for effective irrigation

***55. SHRI KALYANASUNDARAM :** Will the MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SINCHAI AUR VIDYUT MANTRI) be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to investigate the feasibility of linking the Ganges in the North and the Cauvery in the South for the effective integration of the national system of irrigation; and

(b) if so, the details of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SINCHAI AUR VIDYUT MANTRI) (DR. K. L. RAO) : (a) and (b). A large volume of water after allowing for upstream development and the requirements downstream in the Ganga Basin would be available in the Ganga near about Patna during the monsoon months for diversion. On the other hand, in most of the other rivers of India, particularly in the peninsula, the flows are inadequate

and erratic. These depend largely on the south west monsoon, which is quite often delayed or withdraws early or has a long break leading to scarcity conditions in these basins.

The possibility of diverting a small portion of the surplus waters of the Ganga by connecting it with the Cauvery and further south has therefore been examined in a preliminary manner. The link canals from the Ganga from near Patna to Mettur dam will have to go along or cross the various major river basins of the country, namely Sone, Narmada, Godavary and Krishna and smaller basins like Palar, Pennar, etc. The links will require the construction of a number of hydraulic structures in the various sub-basins to store/lift up the water. About 2100 miles of canals with cross-drainage works, and necessary pumping stations would perhaps be needed.

Further office studies are being carried out on the proposal at present.

Enquiry against Birla Group of Companies

*** 56. SHRI SATPAL KAPUR :** Will the MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (AUDYOGIK VIKAS MANTRI) be pleased to state:

(a) whether the enquiry against the Birla concerns as a follow-up action of the Dutt Committee Report has been completed;

(b) if so, the result thereof ; and

(c) the action Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (AUDYOGIK VIKAS MANTRI) (SHRI MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Conference of Chief Electoral Officers held at Delhi during March, 1971

***57. SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE :** Will the MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (VIDHI AUR NYAYA MANTRI) be pleased to state :