

Backward District in Tamil Nadu Chosen for Industrial Development

902. SHRI SAMINATHAN : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (AUDYOGIK VIKAS MANTRI) be pleased to state :

(a) the number of backward Districts chosen for intensive industrial development in Tamil Nadu ; and

(b) the nature of financial and other incentives proposed to be given for such development ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT (AUDYOGIK VIKAS MANTRALAYA MEN UP-MANTRI) (SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD) : (a) and (b). Eight districts viz., South Arcot, Thiruchirappalli, Madurai, Ramanathapuram, Kanyakumari, North Arcot, Tanjavur and Dharmapuri have been selected in the state of Tamil Nadu which would be eligible for assistance from the financial institutions on the following concessional terms for starting industries there :—

- (i) lower interest rate of 7 per cent ;
- (ii) extension of the period for the repayment of the first instalment of the principal amount of the principal amount of the loan from the present 3 years to 5 years ;
- (iii) longer period of 15-20 years for the repayment of the loan as against 10-12 years normally stipulated ;
- (iv) reduction of the normal service charges by 50% ;
- (v) reduction of the margin of security by the IFCI and the ICICI to 30/35 per cent.

Besides a 'unit' area of 13 talukas from the districts of Ramanathapuram (6 talukas), Madurai (1 taluka) and Thiruchirappalli (3 talukas) has been selected in the State of Tamil Nadu for the purpose of giving an out-right Central Grant or subsidy of 10% on the fixed capital investment of the undertakings to be started there.

Funds for Indravati Multipurpose Dam Project and Anandpur Barrage Project

903. SHRI SURENDRA MOHANTY : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER (SINCHAI AUR VIDYUT MANTRI) be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Planning Commission has refused to accord its approval to the provision of funds in Orissa's Annual Plan 1971-72 for taking up construction of the Indravati Multi-purpose Dam Project ; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SINCHAI AUR VIDYUT MANTRALAYA MEN UP-MANTRI) (SHRI B. N. KUREEL) : (a) and (b). The Upper Indravati Project proposed by the Government of Orissa envisages the utilisation of Godavari basin waters, the disputes regarding which are under adjudication by the Godavari Water Disputes Tribunal. The Government of India do not consider it appropriate to give clearance to any new projects in the Godavari basin while the water disputes in respect of the river are under consideration of the Tribunal.

The Anandpur Barrage has been found to be acceptable on technical considerations. However, this is a large project estimated to cost Rs. 21.5 crores. There is a provision of only Rs. 70 lakhs in Orissa's Fourth Plan for new schemes and it is considered advisable to utilise this small provision for medium schemes in backward areas in preference to any new major schemes.

Findings of National Geophysical Research Institute, Hyderabad, on Koyana Earthquake

905. SHRIMATI BIBHA GHOSH : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER (SINCHAI AUR VIDYUT MANTRI) be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the findings of the National Geophysical Research Institute, Hyderabad, stating that Koyana Earthquake was not natural ; if so, the details thereof ;

(b) whether the findings of the National Geophysical Research Institute contradict the Koyana Earthquake Committee Report ; if so, the points of contradiction ; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SINCHAI AUR VIDYUT MANTRALAYA MEN UP-MANTRI) (SHRI B. N. KUREEL) : (a) and (b), Yes, Sir. The National Geophysical Research Institute Scientists hold the view that "the reservoirs themselves are not responsible for the accumulation of strains released in the moderate to high magnitude earthquakes associated with them, but are responsible for changing the mechanical properties of the concerned regions making them less competent."

(c) The Koyna Earthquake Committee Report April, 1968, has discussed these aspects at length and regarded the whole sequence of seismic events as a single tectonic cause. The Committee is of the opinion that the impounding of the water in the reservoir was not responsible for the major shocks in September and December, 1967. Till it is proved to the contrary, Government is inclined to rely on the report of the Expert Committee which had expert seismologists of India and foreign countries as its members.

Upgrading the Technology of Foundry Industry

906. SHRI MUHAMMED SHERIFF : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (AUDYOGIK VIKAS MANTRI) be pleased to state whether Government have taken any decision to upgrade the technology of foundry industry in view of the scope for exporting castings on a large scale as urged by Director-General of Council of Scientific and Industrial Research in New Delhi on the 3rd April, 1971 ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (AUDYOGIK VIKAS MANTRALAYA MEN UP-MANTRI) (SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD) : The Government has set up a working group which would suggest ways and measures for encouraging the export of ferrous castings. Foundry technology in the country is being constantly improved at the instance of the National Metallurgical Laboratory, Jamshedpur, and its regional centres.

Kidnapping of Persons by Dacoits from a Railway Compartment at Khojepura Station

907. SHRI N. K. SANGHI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS (RAIL MANTRI) be pleased to state :

(a) whether a gang of dacoits kidnapped five persons from a Railway compartment, at Khojepura station, in Morena District on the 21st April, 1971 and the same gang later on stopped another train near the same Railway Station and deprived the passengers of their valuables ;

(b) if so, whether the kidnapped persons were traced and the dacoits arrested ; and

(c) the action Government propose to take to prevent such incidents especially in places where dacoits are active ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (RAIL MANTRI) (SHRI HANUMANTHAIYA) : When train No. 661 Dn. Passenger stopped at Khojepura Station, 5 passengers were kidnapped by a gang of dacoits on 17-4-1971. No train was looted.

(b) Only 4 kidnapped persons have so far been released by the dacoits. No arrests have been made so far.

(c) The following action has been taken by Government :—

- (1) Special Armed Force (Madhya Pradesh Police) guards are deputed to escort Up and Down trains between Sabalgarh and Sheopur-Kalan Stations ;
- (2) Patrolling by State Armed Force has been intensified ;
- (3) Special Armed Force (Madhya Pradesh Police) and Government Railway Police Staff were posted at Khojepura Station after the incident.

Arrest of Workers at Badarpur Thermal Power Station

908. SHRI M. M. JOSEPH :
SHRI DINEN BHATTACHARYA :

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

(a) whether about 175 workers including some women of the Thermal Power Station