

(c) the amount spent by Assam Government in flood protection works in 1968-69, 1969-70 and 1970-71 ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (SHRI B. N. KURFEL) : (a) to (c). Upto the beginning of Fourth Plan, Central Government gave specific loan assistance to the State Governments to meet the expenditure on flood control works. Beginning from Fourth Plan Central assistance to the State Governments is being provided in the shape of block loans and grants and is not tied to any particular project or head of the development. The State Governments are at liberty to allocate funds for the different sectors of development from the block assistance given by the Centre and their own resources. However, the Assam State Government requested a special loan assistance of Rs. 3 crores during 1970-71 for meeting expenditure on urgent flood control works in the Brahmaputra valley.

The amount of assistance sanctioned by Government of India and the expenditure on flood control works in Assam are as follows :

| Year | Expenditure in Rs. lakhs. | Amount of loan assistance given by Government of India in Rs. lakhs. |
|---------|---------------------------|--|
| 1968-69 | 301 | 300 |
| 1969-70 | 543 | Nil |
| 1970-71 | 720 | 300 |

Power for Rural Industries Project Programme in Gujarat State

6704. SHRI SOMCHAND SOLANKI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether sufficient electricity power is available in Gujarat to start rural industries project programme ; and

(b) if not, the steps taken by his Ministry to arrange for electric power in rural areas of

Gujarat for implementation of the said programme ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD) : (a) and (b). In the two existing Rural Industries Projects located in Panchmahals and Kutch Districts the power position is not very satisfactory. During the Fourth Plan one more project is to be located in Junagadh Distt. where a Co-operative Rural Electric Project has also been located. This is expected to provide sufficient power for use by Small Scale Industries units. The Ministry of Industrial Development has requested the Government of Gujarat to provide necessary infrastructure including electric power, for growth of Industries in Rural Project areas.

Policy regarding laying of New Railway Links

6705. MAHARAJA MARTAND SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have any policy regarding laying of new Railway lines with the particular object of upliftment of backward regions ; and

(b) if so, the names of the regions for which such policy has been adopted ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI HANUMANTHAIYA) : (a) and (b). The construction of new lines is undertaken on the recommendation of, or with the concurrence of, the Planning Commission. Priority is accorded to lines which are required for meeting strategic needs as also operational necessities of the Railways. Lines required for development of heavy industries, transport of mineral traffic, port development etc. are given special consideration in view of the overall benefits likely to accrue from such projects. Lines required for development of backward areas which have a large potential for industrial development, opening up agricultural or forest resources and to serve general economic and social needs are examined on merits taking into account the limited financial resources. For this purpose, studies are undertaken of the likely benefits from these lines to the areas concerned along with the likely financial return to the railways before decisions are taken.