

(b) The States which are experiencing maximum shortage in the Northern Region are Punjab, Haryana and U.P. Maximum assistance is being provided to these States from the Badarpur Project. Efforts are also being made to pass on the surplus power available in Rajasthan to these States by running RAPP—Chambal system with Bhakra system in Parallel. Restrictions have been imposed on use of electricity for ostentatious purposes in Rajasthan. Similar restrictions as well as power cuts to the tune of 10 per cent on industries are in force in Delhi to save as much power as possible and help these States. The other steps being taken are:

- (i) Maximisation of generation from the existing thermal power stations.
- (ii) Expediting the commissioning of projects under construction.

Thein Dam Project

390. SHRI SUKHDEO PRASAD VERMA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the State Government of Punjab have urged the Centre to expedite the clearance of Thein Dam Project; and

(b) if so, the reaction of the Central Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) and (b). The Government of Punjab have been seeking early clearance of the Thein Dam Project. However, the project has some inter-State aspects which have to be carefully considered and resolved before the Project is cleared. Apart from the sharing of the cost and benefits, matters relating to acquisition of land in Jammu and Kashmir and resettlement of displaced families have to be considered and decided. The Dam will have its right flank in

the State of Jammu and Kashmir and the left flank in the State of Punjab. The Government of India have suggested that officers of Jammu and Kashmir and Punjab Governments should meet and resolve issues of interest to both the States before the Project is processed. According to discussions between officers of the two State Governments are now in progress.

Pakistani espionage network in Jammu and Kashmir

391. SHRI SUKHDEO PRASAD VERMA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large-sized Pakistan espionage network operating in Jammu and Kashmir has recently been unearthed; and

(b) if so, the number of arrests made in this connection?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI K. BRAHMANANDA REDDY) (a) and (b). According to the information received from the Government of Jammu and Kashmir, five persons suspected to be espionage agents have been recently arrested.

Burning of a Post Office in Rajkot

392 SHRI SUKHDEO PRASAD VERMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a post office in Rajkot was burnt down by some rowdy elements on January 17, 1975; and

(b) if so, the total loss of property as a result thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (DR. SHANKER DAYAL SHARMA): (a) Yes, Sir. The post office was set on fire on 19-1-1975.