

technological upgradation, increase in the competitiveness of the Indian industry, removing restraints on capacity creation and giving impetus to push the economy towards the attainment of enterprenual and industrial potential. These measures will provide a further boost to overall industrial production and associated employment opportunities.

(b) It is difficult to estimate the number of unemployed youth who will get employment every year.

(c) According to the Index of Industrial Production compiled by the Central Statistical Organisation the overall rate of industrial growth was 8.4% during 1990-91 which was almost at the same level as that achieved in the last financial year. As mentioned above, the measures taken in the Industrial Policy will provide a further boost to overall industrial production.

(d) Government have also announced recently on 6th August, 1991, policy measures for promoting and strengthening Small, Tiny and Village industries. These measures comprise increase in the investment limit of Tiny enterprises from Rs. 2 lakhs to Rs. 5 lakhs, a new scheme for integrated infrastructural development and market and export promotion measures and adequate flow of credit for promotion of village industries including Handloom and Handicraft sectors and expansion in the activities of KVI sector for setting up non-farm employment opportunities.

[English]

Equipment Development by National Environmental Engineering Research Institute

4844. SHRI PRATAPRAO B. BHONSLE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether some equipment has been developed by the National Environmental Engineering Research Institute, Nagpur which ensures clean water from handpumps;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether its application in rural areas of the country will be very useful;

(d) whether the Government propose to make wide use of this instrument in rural areas of the country;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) to (c). Yes, Sir. National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI) have developed a handpump attachable Iron Removal Plant (HP-IRP) which when attached to a handpump helps in reducing excess iron contents in the water to permissible limits. The evaluation results indicate that this system is capable of reducing iron contents from the level of 5 mg. per litre to less than 0.3 mg. per litre. It is a very useful in the areas where iron concentrations in the water are comparatively higher.

(d) to (f). The system is being made use of widely in the rural areas under national drinking water mission. 240 such plants have already been installed in the State of Assam under this programme.

[Translation]

Non-Availability of Wheat at Reasonable Rates

4845. SHRI RAJENDRA KUMAR SHARMA: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether complaints have been received from consumers regarding non-availability of wheat at reasonable rates;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government to make wheat available to farmers and consumers at reasonable rates; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to redress the complaints of the consumers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD (SHRI TARUN GOGOI): (a) to (c). Central Government allocates adequate quantities of wheat to States/Union Territories for distribution through Public Distribution System at a uniform rate (Central issue price) throughout the country. The States/U.Ts. add a certain margin on this and, therefore, the end retail price of wheat in P.D.S. would differ from State to State. The existing central issue price for wheat is Rs. 234/- per quintal and carries a substantial subsidy so that P.D.S. consumers can get wheat at a reasonable rate. States make available the allotted quantities of wheat to all beneficiaries of PDS, including farmers and consumers.

Declaration of Chhetichand as Public Holiday

4846. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHAR-GAVA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of the Government to declare 'Chhetichand' (Sindhi Day) as public holiday;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) to (c). Chhetichand

is one of the 12 occasions for the purpose of selecting 3 optional holidays every year for Central Government administrative officers. Central Government operative offices as also industrial, commercial & trading establishments have the option to include Chhetichand as one of the holidays, every year, within the permitted number.

Allocation of Funds under Jawahar Rojgar Yojana

4847. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHAR-GAVA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether special provisions have been made to provide more grants for hill and desert areas under Jawahar Rojgar Yojana;

(b) whether National Agriculture Commission has admitted that 11 districts of Rajasthan including Jalaur, Sikar, and Ganganagar fall under Thar desert area;

(c) whether the Union Government have recognized the said three districts for special grant under Jawahar Rojgar Yojana;

(d) if so, the time by which financial assistance will be provided; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI G. VENKAT SWAMY): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e). Government of India have agreed to the State Government's suggestions given in 1990-91 to make the allocations to the districts in Rajasthan according to the prescribed criteria; implying that no distinction should be made between desert and other districts.