

(d) Of the existing operating power stations viz. Tarapur Atomic Power Station and Rajasthan Atomic Power Station—1, only Tarapur Atomic Power Station requires enriched uranium obtained from USA. The Rajasthan Atomic Power Station does not require nuclear material from foreign sources. Delay in obtaining enriched uranium is likely to handicap future operations of the Tarapur Atomic Power Station.

**राजस्थान के रेतीले क्षेत्र का विकास**

453. श्री चतुर्भुज : क्या योजना मंत्री यह बनाने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) राजस्थान के रेतीले क्षेत्रों में प्रस्तावित आदिम जाति बाहुय जिलों का विकास करने हेतु बुनियादी माध्यम विकसित करने के लिए अब तक क्या कार्यवाही की गई है ;

(ख) अब तक किये गये कार्यों का मूल्यांकन क्या है ; और

(ग) इस कार्य में तेजी लाने के लिये क्या कार्यवाही करने का विचार है ?

संसदीय कार्य तथा भ्रम मंत्री (श्री रवीन्द्र वर्मा) : (क) से (ग). अपेक्षित सूचना राजस्थान सरकार से प्राप्त की जा रही है और प्राप्त होते ही उसे सभा पटल पर प्रस्तुत कर दिया जायेगा ।

**Deepening of Sethu Samudram**

454. SHRI S. D. SOMASUNDARAM: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state whether Government propose to take up the deepening of Sethu Samudram so that the ships coming to Tuticorin, Madras etc. from West Coast need not go round Sri Lanka?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM): The proposal has not been included in the Fifth Plan.

**Small and Cottage Industries in Rural Areas**

455. SHRI S. D. SOMASUNDARAM: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to promote small and cottage industries in rural areas on a priority basis;

(b) if so, whether a survey and identification of such industries has been made;

(c) the time by which the plans for development of such industries are proposed to be formulated and implemented; and

(d) whether the plans, already made by the previous Government afford a satisfactory base for further meaningful development?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI BRIJ LAL VERMA): (a) Yes, Sir. The new Government is giving top most priority to promote small and cottage industries in rural areas.

(b) Yes, Sir. There are already 111 districts in the country covered under Rural Industries Projects Programme and in all these Districts, techno-economic survey has been carried out by the Project staff and industries identified which could be developed in these areas. The survey reports are also being updated from time to time with a view to identifying the industries which have scope for expansion.

(c) The new strategy for development of rural industries with a special emphasis on labour intensive units in rural areas is being chalked out by the Industry Ministry in line with the Janata Government thinking. The Small Industries Development Organisation of the Ministry of Industry and various other agencies concerned with the small scale sector are preparing a blue print for the purpose which will also indicate the time-frame for action.