

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPARTMENT OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES) (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Under the General Small Scale Industries Exemption Scheme covering majority of the goods under C.E. Tariff, clearances upto a value of Rs. 30 lakhs of the SSI units including those in Gujarat are fully exempted from excise duty and concessional rate of duty on the subsequent clearances upto Rs. 75 lakhs is applicable subject to the condition that the turnover of such units in the preceding financial year has not exceeded Rs. 200 lakhs.

(c) The scheme already covers rural areas.

(d) and (e). Do not arise.

[*Translation*]

Submarine Capability

2506. SHRI AMAR PAL SINGH:
SHRI ASTBHUJA
PRASAD SHUKLA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item appeared in "Nav Bharat Times" dated May 31, 1994 wherein declining trend in the Indian submarine capability has been expressed;

(b) if so, the facts thereof; and

(c) the remedial steps proposed to be taken in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND THE

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) The Government is aware of the news item in Nav Bharat Times of 31 May, 1994.

(b) The force levels of the Indian Navy are determined with reference to the geostrategic environment, the threat perception at a given time, the role envisioned for the Navy in this context and the availability of resources. Accordingly, the Navy is adequately equipped to perform its assigned tasks.

(c) Does not arise in view of (b).

[*English*]

Backward Districts in U.P.

2507. DR. SAKSHIJI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Uttar Pradesh has sent any proposal to the Union Government for declaring some districts as industrially backward;

(b) if so, the names of the Government for declaring a district as industrially backward; and

(c) the facilities provided to such districts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF HEAVY INDUSTRY) (SMT. KRISHNA SAHI): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh has proposed that the eight hill districts of the State be included in the list of backward areas.

(c) the Central Government has set up a Study Group for laying down a set of