

INVESTMENT BY BRITISH GOVERNMENT

2081. Shri J. Chokka Rao : Will the Minister of Industry be pleased to state :

(a) whether the British Government has provided assistance to the tune of rupees 9,000 crores for investment in the joint ventures for the States in South India; and

(b) if so, the State-wise amount invested so far, together with the projects for which it was given ?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Industry (Department of Industrial Development and Department of Heavy Industry) (Shrimati Krishna Sahi) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

ALLOCATION OF FUNDS FOR R.D. SCHEMES

2082. Shri Ram Tahal Choudhary : Will the Minister of Rural Areas and Employment be pleased to state :

(a) whether the State Governments are getting funds under the rural development Schemes at the end of the Year;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the directives issued by Government to allocate the funds and timely release thereof ?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment (Departments of Rural Development) (Shri Uttambhai Harjibhai Patel) : (a) to (c) No, Sir. The important Rural Development Schemes being implemented by the Ministry of Rural Areas and Employment are (i) Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), (ii) Jawahar Rozgar Yojana (JRY), (iii) Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS), (iv) Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) and (v) Drought Prone Areas Programme (DPAP).

Government has laid down clear cut provisions and directions on allocation and release of funds to Districts/States under various programmes. According to these guidelines, funds are released in instalments to the State Governments. The first instalment of Central share under these schemes is generally released to all the districts/states in the beginning of the financial year without any pre-condition. The Second instalment of funds are released to the districts/states on their request as and when 50% of utilisation of available resources is achieved. Under normal circumstances, the States should get the release of second instalment latest by the end of December of each year.

PUBLIC SECTOR UNDERTAKINGS HEADED BY SCs

2083. Shri Kunjee Lal : Will the Minister of Industry be pleased to state :

(a) the number of undertakings and enterprises being headed by the persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes

out of the total number of public sector undertakings;

(b) the number of enterprises in which the post of Chairman is lying vacant; and

(c) the policy of the Government in regard to the appointment of the officers/persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes as Chairman and Head Public Sector Enterprises ?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Industry (Department of Industrial Development and Department of Heavy Industry) (Shrimati Krishna Sahi) : (a) Information relating to public sector undertakings headed by persons belonging to Scheduled Castes is not readily available. This is being collected and will be placed on the Table of the House.

(b) Out of the 246 Central Public Sector Undertakings, the post of Chief Executives (Chairman-cum-Managing Director/Managing Director) were vacant in 27 PSUs on 30-6-95.

(c) Board level appointments in PSUs are made on the recommendations of the Public Enterprises Selection Board (PESB). Eligible candidates (including candidates belonging to SC/ST categories) are short-listed and called for interview. Of the persons called, candidates found suitable on the basis of qualification, job experience and overall merit, are recommended. There is no reservation for SCs for appointment as Chief Executives of the PSUs.

[English]

APPOINTMENT OF CONSULTANT

2084. Shri Harchand Singh : Will the Prime Minister be pleased to state :

(a) the number of retired Government employees appointed as consultant in various departments during 1994-95;

(b) whether the Government have evaluated the performance of such consultants; and

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to review the strength of consultants ?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions and Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs (Shrimati Margaret Alva) : (a) According to information received from 42 Ministries/Departments, 47 retired Govt. employees had been engaged as consultants.

(b) As per guidelines issued by the Department of Personnel and Training, Ministries/Departments are competent to engage consultants upto a period of six months on their own keeping in view of the requirements of work / specific jobs of a specialised nature and evaluation of their performance is not required to be carried out centrally.

(c) The strength of retired Government servants engaged as consultants by Ministries/Departments, as per information