

alisation to stop migration from rural to urban areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any rural areas have been identified to promote industries in the country; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) to (d). Yes, Sir. Promotion of industries in rural sector primarily falls within the responsibility of the state Governments. The Central Government however, supplements the efforts of State Governments by way of measures like provision of cheap and easily available finance, transfer of technology, assisting in the provision of scarce and critical raw-material and creation of institutional infrastructure at the All India level. In order to disperse industries in rural and semi-urban areas and to provide all the services and support to small entrepreneurs under a single roof, 422 District Industries Centres have been set up covering 431 districts in the country. These Centres have prepared detailed action plans and have identified industries based on local resources, local demand and local skill.

The Government have established National Equity Fund in 1987 to provide support in nature of equity assistance and a single window scheme in 1988 for financing of fixed assets and working capital to tiny and small scale industries located in villages.

Khadi & Village Industries Commission continues to play a pivotal role in strengthening rural economy by developing and promoting Khadi & Village Industries. In order that KVIC plays an effective role for rapid rural industrialization, Khadi & Village Industries Act has been recently amended. The amended Act envisages expansion of the

scope of Village industries and removal of restrictions on the number and type of industries that can be assisted by KVIC. The Commission has identified 70 new industries in addition to existing 26 village industries for promotion.

Maha Nagri Express

194. SHRI YADVENDRA DATT: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to run the Maha Nagri Express train from Varanasi to Bombay via Jaunpur, Phulpur and Allahabad; and

(b) if so, when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The train is well patronised on its present route.

Guest Houses Hired in Delhi by Public Undertakings

195. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of guest houses hired by various Central public undertakings in Delhi; and

(b) the total rent being paid by these public undertakings for these guest houses?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI AJIT SINGH):(a) and (b). Since the Guest Houses maintained by the Public Sector Undertakings are on Unit basis and the information may not be readily available in their corporate offices, the effort and time spent in