

(b) whether a proposal to introduce legislation to protect the small units is under consideration of Government; and

(c) the details of the steps proposed to be taken to help the ancillary industries ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Government has already issued guidelines to public sector undertakings for promotion of ancillary industries. In order to meet the sophisticated needs of parent units by producing quality goods at competitive prices, Government proposes to raise the limit of investment in plant and machinery of ancillary units to the level of Rs. 45 lakhs from the existing ceiling of Rs. 25 lakhs.

Acquisition of Oil-field Equipment for Oil Exploration

1118. **SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK :** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government have a proposal for the acquisition of oil-field equipment for the country's accelerated oil exploration programme;

(b) if so, the additional oil-field equipment proposed to be purchased for the above purpose and the total value thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to avoid delay in implementing the above proposal ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA) : (a) to (c). According to the 1985-86 plan, oil-field equipment valuing about Rs. 2097 crores is to be acquired. Individual proposals for release of foreign exchange come of the Government after the purchase is finalised on the basis of global tendering. These proposals are processed expeditiously.

Public Sector Units/Undertaking Manufacturing Defence Equipments

1119. **SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSHI :** Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of well-equipped public sector units/undertakings are manufacturing sophisticated defence equipments, especially the National Instruments Limited, West Bengal; and

(b) if so, the reasons why the Ministry do not tie those units with the Ordnance Unit for a uniform administration and effective growth of productivity and precision etc. to save to heavy expenditure ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There are nine public sector units under the administrative control of the Ministry of Defence, who contribute a substantial share of defence requirements.

In addition, the capacity available in the Civil Sector is also being exploited to meet Defence requirements. Since the major share of their capacities is utilised for manufacture of stores for Civil market, it is not considered necessary to bring them under the administrative control of Ministry of Defence.

As regards National Instruments Ltd., Calcutta is concerned, at present Defence items account for only about 12% of their present production.

Eligibility of Howrah to be declared as a backward District

1120. **SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSHI :** Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the criteria for declaring a district or zone backward in industry;

(b) whether in this light, Howrah District is eligible to be declared as an industrially backward district; and

(c) if not, whether Government propose to set up a committee to find reasons why once India's largest industrial zone Howrah is now collapsing in industry and to suggest remedial measures ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN) : (a) Planning Commission in December, 1969 suggested the following guidelines to be adopted by State Government for identifying districts as industrially backward :

- (i) Per Capita food grains/commercial crops production depending on whether the district is predominantly a producer of food-grains/cash crops for inter-district comparisons conversion rates between food grains and commercial crops may be determined by the State Government on a predetermined basis where necessary.
- (ii) Ratio of population to agricultural workers.
- (iii) Per Capita industrial output.
- (iv) Number of factory employees per lakh population or alternatively number of persons engaged in secondary and tertiary activities per lakh of population.
- (v) Per Capita consumption of electricity.
- (vi) Length of surfaced roads in relation to population or railway mileage in relation to population. It was also indicated that only those districts with indices well below the State average may be selected for suitable incentives from financial institutions.

Accordingly 246 district were identified as industrially backward eligible to concessional finance facilities. Out of these 101 districts/areas were further identified for benefits under the Central Investment Subsidy Scheme. Copies of these lists are available in the Parliament Library.

In November, 1981 at the instance of late Prime Minister a quick identification was made, on the basis of Action Plans prepared by the District Industries Centres, of all districts in India which did not have a single large or medium scale industry, 90 such districts have been identified and placed in Category 'A'.

With effect from 1.4. 1983 all identified backward and No-Industry Districts have been classified into 3 categories viz., 'A' 'B' & 'C' as follows :—

Category 'A' :—Comprising No-Industry Districts and Special Region Districts.

Category 'B' :—Comprising erstwhile Central Investment Subsidy districts minus districts included in Category 'A'.

Category 'C' :—Comprising erstwhile concessional finance districts minus districts included Category 'A' and 'B'.

(b) No Sir.

(c) No, Sir. It is for the State Government to set up such a Committee.

Electoral Reforms

1121. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA :
SHRI C. JANGA REDDY :
DR. A.K. PATEL :

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Election Commission has made a number of suggestions concerning electoral reforms in the light of the experience it had from the recent general elections to the Lok Sabha and various State Assembly elections;

(b) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) the recommendations proposed to be implemented during 1985-86 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ) : (a) to (c). No, Sir. Government are awaiting such proposals from the Election Commission. The Commission has informed that it is processing its recommendations on electoral reforms in the light of experience gained during the general election to the Lok Sabha in December, 1984 and some State Assemblies held recently. The Commission will be forwarding recommendations after considering the reports of the Chief Electoral Officers and a large number of other suggestions received from political parties and others.

Financial Assistance to set up industries in Idduki and Wynad Districts (Kerala)

1122. PROF P.J. KURIEN : Will the