

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (DR. RAJENDRA KUMARI BAJPAI) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Ministry, however, provide grant-in-aid to voluntary organisations taking up programme for the development of scheduled tribes. The Ministry also awards fellowships to scholars registered in recognised universities for doctoral and post-doctoral courses to encourage in-depth study on socio-economic problems of tribal people and tribal areas. Publication assistance to suitable literature on tribal development and financial assistance to research organisations for undertaking research and evaluation studies are also given.

Visit of Minister of External Affairs to U.S.A.

*262. PROF. K. K. TEWARY :

SHRI B. V. DESAI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether he visited the United States of America recently and had wide-ranging discussions with the U.S. authorities ; and

(b) if so, the subjects discussed and the outcome thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI B. R. BHAGAT) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The discussions covered various subjects of common interest in the bilateral, regional and international fields. They have enhanced understanding and will promote cooperation to mutual benefit.

Allotment of Land to Cooperative Credit Society CMERI, Durgapur

2404. SHRI R. P. DAS : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the initiation by Central Mechanical Engineering Research Institute Co-operative Credit Society for lands from Asansol Durgapur Development Authority for house building purposes to the members of the society was stopped by the Director, CMERI in 1982-83 ;

(b) whether during the same period letters were issued by the Director, CMERI TO ADDA for allotting lands for the same purpose to a handful of persons ; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI SHIVRAJ V PATIL) : (a) In his capacity as its Chairman, the Director, CMERI, barred collection of funds by the Secretary of the Cooperative Credit Society for setting up a Housing Cooperative Society since there was no consent from the Board of Directors of that Society.

(b) and (c) Some applications by groups of staff who had formed individual Cooperative Housing Societies, were forwarded to Asansol-Durgapur Development Authority by the Director for consideration. The consent of the Board of Directors was not needed in their cases.

Forest (Conservation) Act

2405. SHRI R. M. BHOYE : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that State Government have expressed certain operational difficulties' in the present structure of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and asked for delegation of powers to them in keeping with modern management methods ; and

(b) if so, the details regarding the difficulties being experienced and the reaction of Union Government in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI) : (a) and (b) A few State Governments have expressed the feeling that there should be a provision under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 for delegation of powers to the States. However, the delay is mainly due to the submission of incomplete proposals by the State Governments and the delay in replying the queries made in this regard by the Central Government. As such a delegation of powers under the said Act is not deemed necessary.