

(a) whether Government have drawn up a scheme to assist the North Eastern States to supply levy sugar and iodised salt in small packs to consumers ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Central Government is providing financial assistance to States/Union Territories of the North-Eastern Region for supply of iodised salt and levy sugar in small packs to consumers through the network of fair price shops. During the financial year 1986-87, a sum of Rs. 16.41 lakhs to Arunachal Pradesh and a sum of Rs. 2.23 lakhs to Mizoram was released under this scheme.

Expert committee to review functioning National Small Industries Corporations

211. SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government have constituted an Expert Committee to review the functioning of the National Small Industries Corporation with a view to start small scale industries in new areas ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) and (b) Government of India have constituted an Expert Committee to review the strategy adopted by National Small Industries Corporation for serving the small scale industries. The Expert Committee will review the present functions of the National Small Industries Corporation viz. Hire Purchase Scheme for supply of machinery to small scale sector, Marketing Programme, Prototype Development and Training Centres, Raw Material Assis-

tance Programme, Single Point Registration Scheme etc. and make recommendations outlining a clear and definite plan of action for the NSIC with a perspective for at least 10 years. The Expert Committee has been specifically asked to recommend the role NSIC can play in improving quality of products in the small scale sector.

Transfer of Heads of Central Telegraph Offices on Account of Complaints

212. SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of heads of the Central Telegraph Office transferred on account of complaints and inefficient working in telegraphs during the last three years; and

(b) whether it brought about the desired improvement ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV) :

(a) Only one such case came up during the last 3 years.

(b) Yes, Sir.

Increasing Supply of L.P.G.

213. SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) what were the targets fixed for increasing supply of LPG during the last three years and to what extent these have been achieved;

(b) the increase in supply of LPG cylinders during the last three years; and

(c) the reasons for failure to reduce the price of LPG for consumers when there is appreciable increase in production ?