

Time-bound Plan for the development of Ancillary Units

309. SHRI K. A. RAJAN: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether he has asked the public sector undertakings to draw up a concrete time-bound plan for the development of ancillary units;

(b) if so, whether his request has made any commendable result; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (KUMARI ABHA MAITI): (a) to (c). The Minister to Industry has drawn the attention of the heads of the public sector undertakings under the control of the Ministry of Industry to certain important issues arising out of the statement on industrial policy which was announced recently, in his letter dated 12-1-1978. In this letter the heads of the public sector undertakings under the control of the Ministry of Industry have been advised, *inter-alia*, to draw up a concrete time bound plan for the development of ancillary units. It is too early to assess the results.

Request of Punjab Government for inclusion of Punjabi speaking areas to Punjab

310. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Punjab have approached the Government of India with the request to take necessary steps for the inclusion of Punjabi speaking areas in Punjab;

(b) if so, whether any action has been initiated in this direction; and

(c) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI DHANIK LAL MANDAL): (a) Government of India have not received

any reference from the Government of Punjab in this regard.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Financial assistance to Rural Electric Cooperatives by Rural Electrification Corporation

311. SHRI CHITTA BASU: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether one of the principal objectives of the Rural Electrification Corporation is to promote and finance rural electric cooperatives; and

(b) if so, the progress made in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI P. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Five Pilot Rural Electric Co-operative Societies, one each in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Karnataka, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh had been set up in 1969 with the financial assistance from the Corporation. In addition, the Corporation has sanctioned financial assistance to seven new Rural Electric Co-operative Societies, two in Andhra Pradesh and one each in Bihar, Jammu & Kashmir, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and Rajasthan. Loan assistance amounting to Rs. 22.98 crores has been sanctioned to these Co-operative Societies.

The State Governments of Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal have also decided to set up one or more new Rural Electric Co-operative Societies in their States.

Setting up a Press Commission

312. SHRI CHITTA BASU:
SHRI VASANT SATHE:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) progress made so far in setting up of the Second Press Commission and