

### Functioning of the District Industries Centres

453. SHRIMATI MRINAL GORE: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the functioning of the district Industries centres;

(b) authority under which these centres are to function; and

(c) what role the state Industries Departments have in the functioning of these centres?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI ABHA MAITI): (a) The District Industries Centres will function at district level as institutions for making available to existing and prospective small scale entrepreneurs all necessary approvals and facilities under one roof.

(b) District Industries Centres scheme is a centrally sponsored scheme. The State Government will implement the scheme under the general guidance of the Central Government.

(c) The State Industries Department would be the controlling authority of the District Industries Centres in the State.

### Indian Army Buildings at Naugoan

454. SHRI LAXMINARAIN NAYAK: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether many old buildings belonging to the Indian Army are lying vacant at Naugoan in Chhatarpur district of Madhya Pradesh;

(b) whether on his visit of Naugoan on the 8th April, 1978, the residents thereof submitted to him a memorandum regarding re-establishment of an Army College or some other similar institution there; and

(c) the action being taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHER SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. Some buildings belonging to the Army at Naugoan have become available after their vacation by some Police Units in the last few months.

(b) A memorandum was submitted to Raksha Mantri by the residents of the place.

(c) It has been decided to place a Major Army Unit at Naugoan for proper utilisation of the accommodation. In the meantime, action is in progress to repair the old buildings.

### People living below Poverty Lines

455. SHRI RAJ KRISHNA DAWN: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the facts that in spite of several progressive development plans and economic upliftment schemes the percentage of people living below the poverty lines has increased considerably and continuously than that of 15 years ago; and

(b) if so, what remedial action Government are taking to arrest this ever increasing percentage?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI MORARJI DESAI): (a) and (b). The available estimates of poverty indicate that the percentage of people below the poverty line, having increased upto 1968-69, declined thereafter. The Government are, however, aware that the number of people below the poverty line is substantial. As already indicated the principal objectives of the next phase of development will be the removal of poverty, unemployment and under-employment in about a decade. The highest priority has been accorded to agriculture and allied sectors and village and cottage industries which have the greatest capacity to absorb surplus labour. An expanded Minimum Needs Programme

has also been provided for so that the living standards of the poor people can be directly supplemented by the provision of certain minimum basic amenities.

**Critical analysis of the functioning of Small Scale Industries and setting up of Apex Financial Corporation**

456. SHRI C. VENUGOPAL: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have on hand a critical analysis based on the investigations of various committees so far on the economic and efficient functioning of small scale industries;

(b) the Common drawbacks noticed and the effective steps taken to increase the viability of such industries; and

(c) whether Government proposed to establish an apex financial corporation in each state to cater to the requirement of small scale industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI-MATI ABHA MAITI): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Government is aware that the economic and efficient functioning of small scale industries is hampered by a number of factors, such as, inadequate credit, low utilization of installed capacity, power shortages, uncertainty in supply of raw materials, inadequate marketing outlets and competition with the organised sector. Government is taking the necessary measures to increase the viability of the small scale sector.

(c) No, Sir.

**Surcharge on Account of Congestion at Bombay Port**

457. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the image of Bombay Port has gone down owing to conges-

tion and as a result thereof certain shipping companies have imposed congestion surcharges;

(b) if so, which shipping companies have imposed such surcharge and what is the rate thereof; and

(c) what has been the normal turn round of the ships before the present congestion and what is the present turn round of the ships?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN-CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT: (SHRI CHAND RAM): (a) A proper appreciation of the situation obtaining in Bombay Port is necessary. Several reasons have contributed to the present congestion in Bombay Port, some beyond the control of the Port authorities e.g. preference of the user agencies to utilise Bombay Port.

In order to recover the extra expenditure due to waiting time certain Conference Lines have imposed congestion surcharges;

(b) The following surcharges have been imposed by Conference Lines:—

Karmohom Conference Lines have levied a surcharge @ 10 per cent from 3-10-77 and reduced to 7½ per cent from 1-11-1977. It was also raised to 15 per cent from 17-4-78. The Conference has notified to enhance the rate of surcharge upto 25 per cent from the 17th July, 1978. The India Pakistan-Bangla Desh-Middle East Conference Lines levied a surcharge of 15 per cent with effect from 1-5-1978. India-Ceylon-Pakistan-Burmah Outward Trade Conference have imposed a surcharge of 30 per cent from 7-7-1978.

(c) Normally turn-round of ships before congestion was 43.93 hours per 1000 tonnes which has now increased to 50.51 hour per 1000 tonnes of cargo handled by labour.