

The Rajasthan State Industrial & Mineral Development Corporation, Jaipur, has applied in February, 1979 for revision of capacity from the existing 0.33 to 0.66 lakh tonnes per annum. The schemes are still in preliminary stages of implementation.

#### Schemes for Uplifting the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes

9206. SHRI S. S. LAL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is proposed to have new schemes for uplifting the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the country to give a new deal to their welfare with special machinery to guarantee their rights and interests; and

(b) if so, the nature of the schemes and the progress made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI DHANIK LAL MANDAL): (a) and (b). In respect of the Scheduled Castes, the new thrust of the Government of India is on their economic development so that their uplift has a sound foundation. The Working Group on the Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Classes during the Medium Term Plan 1978-83, which had been constituted with the Minister in the Ministry of Home Affairs as its Chairman, has emphasised in its report that economic development programmes are crucial for the Scheduled Castes.

(i) The Special Component Plan for the Scheduled Castes, which envisages identification of schemes for the Scheduled Castes under general sectors, quantification of funds from all divisible programmes under each sector and determination of specific targets as to the number of families which would benefit from these programmes. The Special Component

Plan for the Scheduled Castes is envisaged as a distinct part of each State Plan and of the Central Ministries. Most State Governments with substantial population of Scheduled Castes have made a beginning in preparing Special Component Plans for the Scheduled Castes.

(ii) *Scheduled Castes Development Corporations.* As an instrument to help beneficiaries of target groups to avail themselves of the benefits intended for them and with a view to ensuring necessary linkages with the market, the credit institutions, technical expertise and the like, the establishment of Scheduled Castes Development Corporations in the States had been suggested. These are envisaged to function as guarantors and promoters and also to provide missing inputs wherever necessary; they would operate through the sectoral authorities and other organisations, providing the necessary back-up for the programme. A scheme for Central assistance to States for investment in the Scheduled Castes Corporations has been commenced. An outlay of Rs. 10 crores has been provided for 1979-80. Most of the States with substantial population of Scheduled Castes have formed these Corporations.

(iii) A Scheme for strengthening the machinery to implement the Protection of Civil Rights Act in the States has been taken up. There is a provision of Rs. 2 crores for 1979-80.

With regards to Scheduled Tribes, during the Sixth Plan it is proposed

to include Tribal pockets of 10,000 or more population with 50 per cent tribal concentration under the Modified Area Development Approach. In these pockets also developments programmes more or less similar to those in the tribal sub-plan areas having regard to the local needs will be undertaken to ensure speedier development of the Scheduled Tribes in these pockets.