

the post of Incharges in Khadi Gramodyog Bhavan, New Delhi reserved for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes;

(b) if so, why no results have been declared so far;

(c) whether it is also a fact that when experience Scheduled Cast employees working in Khadi Gramodyog Bhavan are available, the post of Incharges have been advertised calling applications from outside candidates, and

(d) if so, why locally available candidates are not being considered for the posts advertised?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir .

(b) to (d) According to the Rules of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission, the 1st vacant post is to be filled in by promotion, 2nd by selection from amongst the staff, 3rd again by promotion and 4th by direct recruitment. The employees of the Bhavan can also apply against posts which are advertised. There are 8 posts of Incharges in the Khadi Bhavan of which 2 posts are reserved for Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribes candidates. According to the Rules, one of these posts has to be filled in by promotion and the other is to be filled in by direct recruitment. A Scheduled Caste employee working in the Bhavan has been selected against one of the vacant posts for appointment. The other post likely to fall vacant, in near future, was advertised as per rules. None of the candidates who applied fulfilled the qualifications prescribed, and the post has been re-advertised.

Reasons for Losses in Public Sector Units

4056. SHRI V. ARUNACHALAM: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for the losses and low profitability of many public sec-

tor units under the Ministry of Industry during 1978-79 despite the professions of Government to secure improved performance; and

(b) the concrete steps proposed to ensure that the units contribute to our planned economy according to optimised utilisation of capacity?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV): (a) and (b) A clear picture regarding the profit and loss position of various public sector units under the Ministry of Industry during 1978-79 can be had only after their accounts are audited after the close of the financial year 1978-79. The performance of these units continued to be affected by power shortage, lack of sufficient order, higher cost of raw-materials, existence of old and obsolete machinery, lower utilisation of plant capacity etc. The steps being taken to optimise the utilisation of capacities in these units include better production planning, modernisation of plant and machinery, adoption of better technology, diversification in pattern of production, change of products mix and increased participation of workers in the management.

Investment in Public Sector

4057 SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) the total public sector investment so far;

(b) investment made in Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir; and

(c) whether it is creating regional imbalances by the criterion adopted previously?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI FAZLUR RAHMAN): (a) to

(c). The total Plan outlay/expenditure inclusive of the Central and State

Plans from the First Plan onwards is as follows:

Period	Amount (Rs. crores)
First Plan	1960.00
Second Plan	4672.00
Third Plan	8577.00
Annual Plans :—	
1966-67 to 1968-69	6625.00
Fourth Plan	15770.00
1974-75—Actuals	4928.40
1975-76—Actuals	4616.90
1976-77—Actuals	8081.70
1977-78—Anticipated	9564.40
1978-79—Outlay	11650.20

Of the above expenditure, the expenditure under the Plans of Haryana,

Himachal Pradesh, J & K and Punjab are as follows:

	(Rs. crores)			
	Haryana	Himachal Pradesh	J & K	Punjab
First Plan	@	4.99	13.00	163.00
Second Plan	@	16.97	26.82	151.43
Third Plan	@	33.85	61.24	254.23
Annual Plans (1966-69)	84.62	39.88	59.28	121.85
Fourth Plan	358.26	113.43	162.22	428.47
Fifth Plan (1974-78)	483.25	161.48	278.54	719.20
Annual Plan 1978-79. (Approved outlay)	210.00	73.00	108.00	260.00

@Haryana was not a State during this period, it was a part of erstwhile Punjab State and therefore figures relating to Punjab for the First three Plans related to those portions also which later formed Haryana State.

The Hon. Member is perhaps referring to the results of investment by the Central Government in the public sector in the various States. The location of the Central projects is mainly guided by techno-economic considerations. However, the claims of relatively backward States are kept in view wherever these could be done without detriment to the technical and economic criteria. In the successive Five Year Plans a number of programmes have been launched to accelerate the development in economically backward areas. The Draft Five Year Plan for 1978-79 lays emphasis on integrated rural development, area planning and Minimum Needs Programme. These measures it is hoped, will help in removing regional imbalances.

Utilisation of Solar Thermal Energy for Digesters and Production of Fuel Gas

4058 SHRI DHARMVIR VASISHT: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken by the Department of Science and Technology to utilise 'Solar Thermal Energy' for increasing the temperature of the digesters, as also the production of fuel gas from large sized digesters for industrial applications; and

(b) if so, the results of the same?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI MORARJI DESAI): (a) and (b). The Department of Science and Technology has funded a multi-institutional All India Coordinated Project on Biogas Technology and Utilization. At one of the eight participating institutions, namely, Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) work on utilisation of solar thermal energy for increasing the temperature of the diges-

ters, and thereby increasing the production of fuel gas from digesters has been initiated. The KVIC research centre at Ahmedabad has set up a solar slurry heater for heating the slurry to be fed to the gas plant: this enables the temperature of the slurry to be raised to 50°—55°, when the atmospheric temperature is between 8°C. to 16°C. Feeding of heated slurry has resulted in increased gas production. Similarly, in another experiment being conducted by KVIC, a non-tracking type water heater has been designed, through which and through a pipe inside the digester, water is circulated, to increase the temperature of the digester. The experiment is in progress and final results are awaited. Regarding the production of gas from large size digesters for industrial application, no work so far has been initiated.

Production and Supply of Explosive

4059. SHRI K. MAYATHEVAR: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the capacity of the units in India to manufacture explosives for mining operations;

(b) the actual extent of utilisation during last two years;

(c) the reasons for short supply of explosives; and

(d) the steps taken to ensure that mining operations are not jeopardised for lack of explosives?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV): (a) and (b). The installed capacity and actual production of in-