

Defective Planning

1356. SHRI C. R. MAHATA: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether West Bengal Government have criticised India's Planning; and

(b) if so, details in this regard and the reaction of the Central Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI FAZLUR RAHMAN): (a) and (b). The West Bengal Government have generally endorsed the Draft Plan strategy emphasising rural development, employment generation, minimum needs, distributive justice and self-reliance. They had sent to the Planning Commission a memorandum containing their views on Plan priorities. This memorandum has been discussed in detail by the Planning Commission with the State Government (Chief Minister and Finance Minister) in a special meeting. The West Bengal Government's position on various issues would be kept in view in revising the Draft Plan.

Setting up a National Committee to Review the Plan Programmes

1357. SHRI P. M. SAYEED:

SHRI A. R. BADRINARAYAN:

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether a national committee on the development of backward areas has been set up by the Planning Commission to review the working of various plan programmes;

(b) if so, what are the other objects of the proposed committee; and

(c) by what time the report is likely to be submitted by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI FAZLUR RAHMAN): (a) and (b). A National Committee on the Development of Backward Areas has been constituted with the following terms of reference:—

1. To examine the validity of the various concepts of backwardness underlying the definitions in use for present policy purposes and recommend the criteria by which backward areas should be identified.

2. To review the working of:

(a) Existing plans for dealing with the general developmental problems of backward areas like Tribal sub-plans, Plans for Hill Areas etc. and

(b) Existing schemes for stimulating industrial development in backward areas such as the schemes for concessional finance, investment subsidy, transport subsidy, sales tax concessions, etc. similar schemes in the agricultural and allied fields like DPAP, and general measures for tackling the problems of poverty and unemployment with a view to find out their efficacy in the removal of backwardness; and

3. To recommend and appropriate strategy or strategies for effectively tackling the problem of backward areas, classified, if necessary according to areas, causes for prescribed remedies.

(c) The present terms of the Committee ends on 31st December, 1979. The Committee will submit Interim Reports on various issues as and when the relevant part of its work is completed.

Boundary disputes between States

1358. SHRI P. M. SAYEED: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that boundary disputes between States still exist in the country;