

Under the area-oriented programmes following incentives are given in the backward areas:—

- (1) Concessional finance from financial institutions in industrially backward districts.
- (2) Central Investment Subsidy available to qualifying industrially backward districts.
- (3) Integrated Rural Development Programme (against the general rate of subsidy of 33 per cent, subject to a maximum of Rs. 3000 applicable to beneficiaries, the rate of subsidy for Adivasis beneficiaries is 50 per cent under this scheme).

(c) About 6500 youths are currently undergoing training and it is expected that 4000 would complete the training shortly.

(d) In the industrially backward districts of Gujarat State 2786 scheduled castes and 788 scheduled tribes were given financial assistance under the institution-sector oriented programmes.

Improvement of Condition of Backward Classes

1179. SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Government have recently discussed with State Governments the matter regarding improvement of the lot of backward castes—Harijans, Adivasis and other backward classes of the Society; and

(b) if so, the details of the Policy laid down in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) and (b). Two Conferences, one of Chief Secretaries/Home Secretaries/Inspectors General of Police and the other of Chief Ministers/Governors were held on 3-4-1980 and 8-4-1980 respectively, the problems of Scheduled

Castes and Scheduled Tribes were specifically discussed with a view to ensure their quick and rapid development. Further, on 19-4-1980 the Planning Commission called a meeting with representatives of State Governments, Central Ministries etc. to discuss the strategy for the development of the Scheduled Castes.

Since there is a clear nexus between the economic condition of the Scheduled Castes and the atrocities and social disabilities of which they are the victims, the approach to their development has to provide for a firm economic base. It has been impressed upon the States to prepare an optimal Special Component Plan for the development of the Scheduled Castes, based upon their needs in different occupational groups; it has been further emphasised that these programmes for Scheduled Castes should be of sufficiently large magnitudes to have a significant impact.

For the Scheduled Tribes the development of their economic and social conditions will continue to be ensured through the mechanism of Tribal Sub Plans which cover the Integrated Tribal Development Projects pockets of dispersed Tribes and primitive Tribes. The States have been asked to formulate Tribal Sub Plans having regard to the needs and potential of the area, covering all sectors of development.

Scheme to bring Harijans above poverty line

1180. SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT: SHRI LAKSHMAN MALLICK:

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to lay a statement showing:

(a) whether Government have initiated any scheme of special Central assistance with a view to bringing at least half the Harijan

population above the poverty line during the current Plan period; and

(b) if so, the details regarding financial assistance provided to each State for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING (SHRI N. D. TEWARI): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government of India have approved a Special Central Assistance of Rs. 100 crores during Annual Plan 1980-81 for the development of scheduled castes as an additive to the States' resources for formulation of Special Component Plans. The State Governments have already been asked to prepare Special Component Plans for the Scheduled Castes.

(b) Details of distribution of the Special Central Assistance to each State are being worked out.

Contingency Plan to withstand Calamities

1182. SHRI K. MALLANNA: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that calamities like flood or drought and the cost of oil and other energy sources both of which had been unpredictable, have often upset planning requiring frequent revisions;

(b) if so, whether Government have prepared any contingency plan that can withstand the vagaries of nature and the escalating energy bill; and

(c) if so, the details regarding this plan?

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING (SHRI N. D. TEWARI): (a). Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

Contingency Plan for Natural Calamities like Flood or Drought.

Considerable emphasis has been given in the various plan documents

on schemes having a bearing on the development of drought prone areas as also dry land agriculture. Likewise flood control projects and soil conservation measures form an important part of the strategy of the flood control.

The Government of India have accepted the proposition that natural calamities cannot be totally prevented and are likely to occur from time to time. As such, likely expenditure on relief has to be taken into account in drawing up the estimates of financial resources available for plan investments. The Government have also evolved a plan called the 'Contingency Plan' for disaster preparedness and for mitigating their effects. Below are indicated briefly the features of this Plan:

1. State Governments have been advised to revise and update relief/scarcity manuals and to give priority to programmes of disaster preparedness and contingency plans against floods, droughts or cyclones.

2. A model action plan on the subject has been drawn up and circulated to all the States which are prone to recurrent floods. The Plan lays emphasis on various action points implied in it. The States of Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Orissa and West Bengal which are more frequently affected by cyclonic storms, action points have been drawn by Cyclone Distress Mitigation Committees appointed by these States.

3. Drawing upon the lessons of the current drought, a 'Model Manual' for draught management has been prepared and commended to the States for drawing up suitable contingency plans after adaptation to local conditions.

4. It has been proposed to establish Crop Weather Watch Groups at the Centre, State and District levels with agricultural experts and meteorologists to monitor the behaviour of changing weather conditions and suggest appropriate cropping pattern.