

Deferring of Implementation of New Plan projects

2505. SHRI SAKARIA THOMAS: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Planning Commission is contemplating deferring implementation of new plan projects ; and

(b) if so, the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN) :
(a) No, Sir .

(b) Does not arise.

Representation from Ladakhis

2506. SHRI P. NAMGYAL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received any representation from the people of Zaskar (Ladakh) to link Zaskar with LEH via "Chaddar Road" i.e. through the Zaskar river basin ; and

(b) if so, when the works will be taken in hand ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL) :

(a) and (b) A request has been received in this regard from certain residents of Ladakh. An appraisal of all relevant factors, including defence needs and cost effectiveness, has not yet been completed.

Proposal to establish Coal Based Industry in Raniganj

2507. SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Industry Ministry, Government of India, has received

a representation from Industry Minister, Government of West Bengal to establish Coal based industry in Raniganj Coal Field area ; and

(b) If so, what is the decision of Industry Minister, Government of India ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI CHARANJIT CHANANA) : (a) and (b). An application for the grant of an Industrial Licence has been received from the West Bengal Industrial Development Corporation, Calcutta, for setting up an Industrial Unit in Tehsil Jatgoria, District Burdwan of West Bengal for the manufacture of Methanol and Pipe-line Gas based on Coal from the Raniganj Coal-field. The application is under consideration.

Salt Production

2508. SHRI R.P. GAEKWAD: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether salt production in our country has not reached larger capacity and there is scope for tapping the sea with modern technology for salt in view of its vast potential;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Rann of Kutch offers good scope for salt development ; and

(c) whether Government propose to use modern scientific method, in place of traditional method to tap salt waters in this area ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI CHARANJIT CHANANA) : (a) Salt production in 1980 was an all-time record of 80 lakh tonnes. Production can be further increased by adopting improved technology.

(b) Yes Sir.

(c) Sub-soil brine in the Rann of Kutch is being tapped by several salt manufacturers using mechanical means. Further improvement in technology is being constantly encouraged.

Raising of Additional Resources as a result of High Prices and Increase in Population

2509. SHRI R.P. YADAV : Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that inflation and higher growth in population have necessitated the need for additional resources ;

(b) whether the Planning Commission have considered the question of raising additional resources ; and

(c) if so, the nature of measures taken and the additional resources expected from them ?

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING (SHRI S.B. CHAVAN) :

(a) The implications of rising prices since January 1981 and the population growth rate as revealed by 1981 census are still being analysed.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Cheating of Job-Seekers by a Casual Labourer

2210. SHRI N.E. HORO : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) Whether Government's attention has been invited to the *Hindustan Times* dated 2nd June 1981, that Punjabi casual labour went to the United Arab Emirates, returned to India as 'Sheikh' and cheated many glibble persons of several lakhs ;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that the 'Sheikh' 'Sahib' Manjit sporting a French beard and wearing

Arab robes, interviewed atleast 118 candidates for various posts majestic five-star hotel surroundings ; and

(c) if so, whether Government of India have gone in to details in this regard and if so, with what result and the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA) : (a) and (b) Government had taken note of the press report to this effect.

(c) A case of cheating has been registered by the Delhi Police and investigation into the matter is being conducted vigorously.

Regional E.P.F. Offices sanctioned and opened from 1980 onwards

2511. SHRI XAVIER ARAKAL : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) how many Employees Provident Fund Regional Offices are sanctioned and opened from 1980 onwards ; and

(b) how many employees and a industries are covered by these new regional offices and the amount of arrears yet to be collected ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI P. VENKATA REDDY)

(a) No Regional Office has been opened since 1980.

(b) Does not arise.