

### Setting up of Lac Farms in Bihar

482. SHRIMATI MADHURI SINGH: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Centre propose to give financial assistance for setting up lac farms in Bihar State which produces more than sixty percent lac; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Under the Central Sector Scheme for Lac Development namely, "Extension Work and Package Programme for Lac Cultivation in Block and free distribution of Brood-lac in Package Blocks to poor cultivators', a sum of Rs. 2.30 lakhs has been allocated to the State of Bihar during the year 1982-83.

### Increasing of Stipends for Apprentices

483. SHRI A. C. DAS: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken decision to increase the stipends of the apprentices under Central scheme;

(b) if so, what is the total amount each technician or mechanic or engineer will get after increase;

(c) the date from which such stipends will be enhanced; and

(d) the details about the total number of apprentices who will be benefited in implementation of this decision?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI DHARAMVIR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A copy of the notification issued in this regard is laid on the Table of the House.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT—3382/82].

(c) It has become effective from 25-1-1982.

(d) The number of apprentices likely to be benefited by this decision is as follows:—

(i) Trade Apprentices — 1,22,678

(ii) Graduate Engineer and Technician Apprentices — 12,272

### Proposal of Britain to invest more in India to set up Manufacturing Capabilities

484. SHRI S. M. KRISHNA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Britain has shown keenness to invest more in India to set up manufacturing capabilities especially mining machinery, technology, electronic components, computer softwear and automobiles;

(b) if so, whether some concrete proposals were forwarded in this connection by the British Minister of State for industry, who recently visited India; and

(c) the nature of these proposals?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI): (a) to (c). The British Minister of State for Industry, Mr. Kenneth Baker visited India in January, 1982. During the discussions, he indicated that British industry is keen to make investments abroad and instal manufacturing capabilities in countries like India which have a large technically trained and sophisticated manpower. The areas mentioned were machine tools, hand-tools, mining machinery, electronic components, computer software and