

and credit institutions. In addition, the Central Government is giving an outright grant or subsidy amounting to 1/10th of the fixed capital investment of new units having a total fixed investment of not more than Rs 50 lakhs each, in two selected districts in each of the 9 States identified as industrially backward *viz* Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Jammu & Kashmir, Madhya Pradesh, Nagaland, Orissa, West Bengal and U. P. and one district in each of the remaining States and Union Territories.

- (xiv) Under the Border Roads Development Programme considerable investment is being made in the border areas.
- (xv) Special programmes of large magnitude are being implemented for the benefit of the weaker sections of the rural population and for the development of dry and arid areas. These special programmes are being sanctioned and implemented under the guidance of a Central Committee of Co-ordination presided over by a Member of the Planning Commission. An officer of the rank of Additional Secretary is the Member-Secretary of this Committee. 46 Small Farmers' Development Agency Projects, 41 projects for sub-Marginal Farmers and Agricultural Labour and 24 projects for farmers in dry areas have been sanctioned. An amount of Rs. 100 crores has also been provided for an integrated programme of rural works in 54 chronically drought affected areas.
- (xvi) A crash scheme for rural unemployment has also been launched with a provision of Rs 50 crores per annum.
- (xvii) A Rural Electrification Corporation has been set up recently and is giving finance on concessional terms to State Electricity Boards for

rural electrification programmes in backward areas.

पर्वतीय क्षेत्रों का आर्थिक विकास

1103. श्री नरेन्द्र सिंह बिष्ट : क्या योजना मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या योजना आयोग ने योजनाओं में देश के पर्वतीय क्षेत्रों का आर्थिक विकास करने के लिए योजनाओं में कतिपय विशेष कार्यक्रम बनाये थे ; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो उनकी क्रियान्विति में कितनी प्रगति हुई है ?

योजना मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री मोहन धारिया) : (क) और (ख). जी, हां। पहाड़ी क्षेत्र की चौथी योजना में कार्यक्रमों तथा उनकी क्रियान्विति को बताने वाला विवरण सभा-पटल पर रख दिया है। [ग्रन्थालय में रखा गया। देखिए संख्या LT—282/71]

Lowering of Retirement Age from 58 to 55 Years

1104. SHRI K. M. MADHUKAR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the reasons for raising the retirement age of the Central Government employees from 55 to 58 years some years ago ;

(b) whether this decision has an adverse impact on the employment of educated youths ; and

(c) if so, whether Government are contemplating to bring down the retirement age from 58 years to 55 years ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) to (c) The age of retirement of Central Government employees was raised from 55 to 58 years with effect from 30th November, 1962, after a thorough examination of all relevant