

to accord priority to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes people in the allotment of shops under Public Distribution System ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED) : (a) and (b) The Central Government have requested the State Governments and U.T. Administrations to consider fixing of quota for issue of licences for Fair Price Shops, Kerosene Depots, Coal Depots etc. under the Public Distribution System for persons belonging to S.C./S.T. communities. Many of the State Governments and U.T. Administrations have been either fixing such quotas, or giving priority to people belonging to these communities in issue of licences.

[English]

Time to Commercial Agencies on Television

3074. SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARYA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the percentage of 'prime time' on television being made available to commercial agencies ; and

(b) whether the government propose to curtail this percentage ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (KUMARI GIRIJA VYAS) : (a) The concept of "Prime Time" is the convenience of the viewers and the popularity of the programmes. No single slot can be exclusively treated as

prime slot. Presently, about 2.5% of the transmission time features commercial advertisements.

(b) No, Sir.

[Translation]

Production Capacity of Sindri Fertilizer Factory

3075. SHRIMATI RITA VERMA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the production capacity of the Sindri Fertilizer Factory has been falling considerably due to its constantly deteriorating condition ;

(b) if so, the loss suffered annually due to falling production ; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to check this loss ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. CHINTA MOHAN) : (a) The capacity utilisation of Sindri fertilizer factory during the last two years has shown a downward trend compared to production during the earlier two years.

(b) The losses suffered annually including loss due to fall in production during the last four years are as follows :

Year	(Rs. in crores)
1987-88	16.39
1988-89	23.69
1989-90	29.75
1990-91	41.14 (Provisional)

(c) the steps taken by Fertilizer Corporation of India Ltd. to check the losses are as follows :—

(i) Replacement of turbine casing and three leaky revexes in Synthetic Gas Compressor.

- (ii) Revamp of the plant at an approximate cost of Rs. 19 crores.
- (iii) A scheme for installation of *molecular sieve* Unit in Air Separation Plant at a cost of Rs. 13.64 crores.

F.C.I. has also sent a proposal to set up 2×19 MW Captive Power Plants at a cost of Rs. 142.64 crores.

Branch of Technological Research Institute for Food Technology in Madhya Pradesh

3076. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA :
KUMARI VIMLA VERMA :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to establish a branch of Technological Research Institute for Food Technology in Madhya Pradesh keeping in view the growing number of food processing units and to maintain the requisite standard of quality ; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA) : (a) and (b) No Sir, however Central Food Technological Research Institute, Mysore has already set up a Regional Centre at Nagpur to meet the need of the central part of the country on various aspects relating to food technology.

[English]

Sick Small Scale Industries in Kerala

3077. SHRI A. CHARLES :
SHRI M. RAMANNA RAI :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of registered tiny and Small Scale Industries with an investment of less than five lakh rupees in Kerala ;

(b) the total number of persons employed in these industries ;

(c) the number out of them which are sick and the number which are making profits ;

(d) the reasons for the sickness of some of the industries ; and

(e) the steps taken to revive them ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. P. J. KURIEN) : (a) The total estimated number of registered SSI units including those with investment in plant and machinery less than Rs. 5 lakhs coming under the purview of SIDO in Kerala as on 31-12-1990 was 55821.

(b) The total number of persons employed in the above SSI units in Kerala is not separately available.

(c) As per RBI data, the number of sick SSI units in Kerala as on December 31, 1988 was 20735. Data on the number of SSI units making profits are not compiled by the RBI under the present data reporting system of banks.

(d) A number of causes, both internal and external often operating in combination have been responsible for sickness in the small scale sector.