

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: Our main thrust of computerisation in Railways is on reservation and on the freight operation and information system. That is where the thrust is. I do not think there is any plan at the moment to take it right down to that level.

SHRI MURALI DEORA: Why do you not introduce it now? (*Interruptions*)

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: I do not believe in going in that direction just now. The amount that is required or that is colossal... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MURALI DEORA: Had it been introduced, the fire could have been averted....

(*Interruptions*)

SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Has the efficiency of the Indian Railways increased substantially by computerisation? Has the employment opportunities been reduced substantially due to computerisation?

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: This will need notice.

SHRI A.K. ROY: Sir, everyday happening in the Indian Railways does not justify any increase in efficiency by computerisation. It is a long debate whether computerisation reduces job opportunity or not. But one thing is certain. If the computerisation is indigenous with all the infrastructure, it does not affect the job potential in that way. But if the computerisation is imported, thrust from above, then it does. I would like to know what is the position of computerisation in the Railways, whether it is imported or indigenous.

SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES: There is import content in the computers that are going into the Railways. Of the total project cost of Rs. 1100 crores, according to 1986 prices, Rs. 294 crores is the foreign exchange component.

[*Translation*]

No Industry Districts in Madhya Pradesh

*476. **KUMARI UMA BHARATI:** Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of districts declared "no industry districts" in Madhya Pradesh in 1982;

(b) whether Growth Centres were proposed to be set up in all those no industry districts;

(c) the number of Growth Centres actually sanctioned by Union Government and the financial assistance given to them; and

(d) whether this financial assistance will continue during 1990-91?

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) to (d). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) to (d). Eighteen districts have been declared as 'No Industry Districts' in the State of Madhya Pradesh. Under the Central Infrastructural Assistance Scheme for growth centres in the No Industry Districts, it was decided to assist the State Governments to take up infrastructural development in one or two identified growth centres in each No Industry District. The assistance from the Central Government is limited to 1/3rd of the total cost of infrastructural development subject to a maximum of Rs. 2 crores per No Industry District. Six growth centres have been approved in the State of Madhya Pradesh, and a sum of Rs. 7.50 crores so far has been released as central assistance to the State till 31.3.1990. Out of the six growth centres mentioned above central assistance in full has been given to two growth centres and the remaining four are eligible to get central assistance approved under the

scheme depending upon the progress achieved and the availability of funds.

[*Translation*]

KUMARI UMA BHARATI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Hon. Minister has stated in his reply. That 18 districts have been declared as 'No Industry Districts' in Madhya Pradesh. I would like to know the names of these 18 districts and the number of cottage industries and small scale industries set up in each district since then and the facilities provided to them?

SHRI AJIT SINGH: Sir, the question relates only to growth centres. 18 districts have been declared as 'No Industry Districts' in Madhya Pradesh. The Central Government had stated that it would provide Rs. 2 crores to each of the 'No Industry Districts' and the State Government would set up two Growth Centres in each 'No Industry District', but the Madhya Pradesh Government has set up only 6 Growth Centres and for them the Central Government has already provided Rs. 7.5 crores.

KUMARI UMA BHARATI: Which are those 18 districts?

SHRI AJIT SINGH: If the Honourable Lady Member wants I can read out the names. These are—Balaghat, Chhatarpur, Chhindwara, Damoh, Datia, Dhar, Guna, Jhabua, Mandla, Narsinghpur, Panna, Rajgarh, Siwani, Shivpur, Sidhi, Sargunja and Tikamgarh. The name of the districts where growth centres have been set up are—Bhind, Mandla, Jhabua, Dhar, Panna and Rajgarh.

KUMARI UMA BHARATI: Is there any likelihood of setting up Growth Centres in Tikamgarh and Chhatarpur?

SHRI AJIT SINGH: This Scheme has been discontinued. (*Interruptions*)

KUMARI UMA BHARATI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, my supplementary is not yet complete. Another question is linked with it.

(*Interruptions*)

KUMARI UMA BHARATI: May I know the extent of basic amenities like roads, electricity, water and transport etc. provided in these districts? What is the contribution of the State Government and that of the Central Government in them? How much raw material has been made available to these units and what facilities you have provided for marketing the finished goods produced by these units?

SHRI AJIT SINGH: The question asked by the Hon. Lady Member is outside the scope of the present Question.

SHRI RAGHAVJI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, will the Hon. Minister be pleased to state whether any such proposal has come from the State Government for Village Sambalpur? If so, what decision has been taken to set up an industrial growth centre there?

SHRI AJIT SINGH: This scheme related to 18 'No Industry Districts'. Out of that the Madhya Pradesh Government has set up growth centres only in 6 districts and now this scheme has been discontinued.

[*English*]

SHRI VASANT SATHE: I would like to know whether the Government has reviewed the whole concept of declaring certain districts as 'no industry districts'. What are the latest criteria laid down by the Central Government for declaring certain districts as 'no industry districts'?

SHRI AJIT SINGH: The criteria for the backward and 'no industry district' was set up by the Planning Commission in 1971. And in 1983 no industry districts were set up. Now the Government has not reviewed them. As I said the Bajjal Committee was set up to review the criteria and that report has not been considered fully by the Cabinet.

[*Translation*]

DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: Mr.

Speaker, Sir, in addition to the list of Industrial Growth Centres prepared in 1982 some more proposals for setting up of Growth Centres were sent to the Central Government and the Central Government accorded its sanction to them. Of these sanctioned Growth Centres the work has started in many of them, the land has been acquired and crores of rupees have been spent on them. Because of the discontinuance of this Scheme, will not these projects, which include projects at Jawra in Rattlam district and Satlapur in Raisen district, be adversely affected?

[English]

SHRI AJIT SINGH: Sir, when the State Government is supposed to set up the growth centres, they are supposed to take sanction from the Central Government and they have taken sanction for only these six growth centres in those 'no industry districts'. There is no other proposal from the State Government.

SHRI A. CHARLES: Sir, when the proposal for starting such growth centres was first declared, I brought to the notice of the then Industry Minister that there are many mini and medium industrial estates, especially in Kerala, where all infrastructural facilities are available. But fifty per cent of those units, both in public and private sector, are sick because of lack of working capital and proper financial assistance for those estates...

MR. SPEAKER: This question is about Madhya Pradesh.

SHRI A. CHARLES: I have not put the question, Sir. So, my point is that as a matter of policy, they are spending the money for the development of infrastructural facilities. The amount may be spent for the revival of such units where all infrastructural facilities are available but the industries are sick due to lack of funds. So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether this money would

be utilised for the development of such units.

SHRI AJIT SINGH: Sir, there are many reasons for an industry becoming sick and I do not think the scope of the question includes the reasons why a company becomes sick and what the Government or the management can do.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Tiwari ji, why do you interrupt?

SHRI CHHAVIRAM ARGAL: I would like to know from the Hon. Minister that in spite of this Scheme being a good scheme why has it been discontinued? Will it be restarted keeping in view its being good scheme?

SHRI VASANT SATHE: They have discontinued all those good schemes which we had started.

SHRI AJIT SINGH: This scheme was discontinued by you.

SHRI CHHAVIRAM ARGAL: Mr. Speaker, Sir, you have stated that in 1971 a policy was formulated to declare certain areas as 'Backward Areas'. Later on you took up one tehsil each in the backward areas and the remaining whole district was left out. Will you consider all the districts in the Backward Areas as backward districts and declare them accordingly and take necessary action? The entire district should be declared as Backward District. When are you going to start this Scheme?

SHRI AJIT SINGH: The Investment Subsidy Scheme applicable to the industrially backward district was not limited to one Block or Tehsil. So as Growth Centres are concerned, number was limited to two in the 'No Industry Districts'. So far as the new Scheme is concerned, I have already stated and the Hon. Finance Minister has also stated that this scheme is going to be restarted for the small scale industries.

[English]

SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARDHANAN: Sir, the new Government is very much interested in uplifting the rural area. Therefore, I would like to know that in the new policy for no industry areas, how many panchayat unions will be taken up in every district where there is not even one agro-based industry. Will the Government take up the new industrial policy on that basis?

[Translation]

SHRI AJIT SINGH: The Government is formulating the industrial policy and this question is related to that aspect.

[English]

Losses in State Electricity Boards

*477. **SHRI RAJAMOHANA REDDY:** Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the State Electricity Boards which are running in losses for the last three years, year-wise;

(b) the details of losses suffered by each during the period; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to eliminate or minimise the losses in the current year by these boards?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) to (c). A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) and (b). An annexure showing the surplus/deficit of various State Electricity Boards (SEBs) during the last three years is given below.

(c) The State Electricity Boards are autonomous bodies created under the provisions of the Electricity (Supply) Act, 1948. They enjoy full autonomy in their operations and function under the administrative control of the respective State Governments. The need to improve the financial position of the State Electricity Boards has been emphasised to the State Governments. Other steps taken by the Central Government to support the functioning of State Electricity Boards as viable undertakings, inter-alia, include amendments of the statute to make theft of power a cognizable offence, implementation of centrally sponsored renovation and modernisation programme for improving the performance of power stations, introduction of meritorious productivity reward scheme for improved performance of thermal generating stations, introduction of an incentive scheme for reducing transmission and distribution losses.