

SHRI A. K. SEN : Because the Hon. Member is so overwhelmed with his experience about his own State where the ruling party happens to be a different party, he should put a specific question about that State, and about Bihar also a specific question should be put. About Islampur I have answered earlier.

SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Sir, in view of the fact that this questionnaire was sent by the Election Commission to all recognised parties, and in view of the fact that the ruling party's head is also in the House in the shape of the Prime Minister, may I know what was the reaction of the ruling party towards this disqualification of persons with criminal record and booth capturing ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H. R. BHARADWAJ) : I am proud to say that we had suggested this disqualification ourselves ...*(Interruptions)*. I made this suggestion to the Election Commission.

[*Translation*]

**Recommendations of Sivaraman
Committee on Dispersal of
Industries**

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*108. **SHRI RAMSWAROOP RAM :**
SHRI B. V. DESAI :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a Sub-Committee has been set up to take suitable decision on the recommendations of the Sivaraman Committee on dispersal of industries; and

(b) if so, when the Sub-Committee is likely to submit its recommendations ?

[*English*]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN) : (a) and (b). The Government have constituted an Inter-Ministerial Committee to review and revise the incentive scheme for industrialisation of backward areas, taking into account various recommendations of the Sivaraman

Committee. The Committee has been asked to submit its report by the end of the year.

[*Translation*]

SHRI RAMSWAROOP RAM : Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Hon. Minister has said that the report on such an important issue is not yet ready, so what can be asked ? But, I want to know from the Hon. Minister when the Sivaraman committee was constituted and whether that committee has submitted any interim report to the Government so that we could know the number of backward districts which come in the 'no industry' category ?

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN : Sir, I have not said that the Government have not received the report of the committee. What I have said is that the Government have constituted an Inter-Ministerial Committee to consider the question of industrialisation of the backward areas. That committee will consider the recommendations of the Sivaraman Committee. The Sivaraman Committee was constituted in 1978 and it had submitted its report to the Government in 1980. There has not been any delay in that.

[*English*]

SHRI RAMSWAROOP RAM : Why was there delay ?

[*Translation*]

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN : There has not been any delay because it came up for consideration before the Cabinet, committee and the officials committee. Thereafter, in November, 1981, on the directives of the then Prime Minister, the late Indira Gandhi, a survey of the districts having no big or medium industry was conducted and the districts so identified were declared as 'no industry districts'. Apart from this, these categories—A, B and C—were formed. The actual purpose was how industries could be brought to backward areas which have not attracted any industry or entrepreneur so far. Such districts were identified in November 1981 as did not have any big or medium industry. For this purpose, the facility of Central Investment Subsidy Scheme of concessional finance, which was already there was extended to these districts. Besides a new scheme for Central Investment Subsidy was formulated under which 'no

industry districts' were entitled to 25 per cent subsidy with a ceiling of Rs. 25 lakhs, 'B' category districts were entitled to 15 per cent subsidy with a ceiling of Rs. 15 lakhs and 'C' category districts, to 10 per cent subsidy with a ceiling of Rs. 10 lakhs. Apart from this, there were many other schemes, such as, Infrastructure Development Scheme, Transport Subsidy Scheme, were started to attract industries in the backward areas.

SHRI RAMSWAROOP RAM : Mr. Speaker, Sir, this Sivaraman Committee was constituted in 1978 and it submitted its report in 1980. I want to know the number of districts identified from industrial point of view in the entire country and the total quantum of subsidy given in this regard ?

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN : Sir, at the time of selection, the number of such districts was 83 which increased to 93 in due course. I do not have the figures of the industries to be set up in these districts right now. If you direct, I shall make these figures available to the Hon. Member. But, there has been substantial increase in the number of 'letters of intent' and licences issued for setting up of industries in these backward areas ever since this scheme came into effect.

DR. CHANDRA SHEKHAR TRIPATHI : Mr. Speaker, Sir, it is heartening to note, as the Hon. Minister said just now, that the industries would get subsidy and other facilities in the backward areas, but I want to point out that the applications of such entrepreneurs are pending for as many as 4 years and have not been processed by the Ministry so far. The cost of the project which was Rs. 4 crores four years back has escalated to Rs. 10 crores and the entrepreneurs are disheartened, and are abandoning their projects. Therefore, I want to know from the Hon. Minister whether his Ministry is taking any steps to speed up the process of issuing licences and if not what are the reasons for that ?

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN : If there is any application pending for the last four years, as the Hon. Member has said, and if he gives a specific complaint in this regard, I shall certainly look into that case. I think, it is not correct that applications have been pending for the last four years,

because, there are general instructions to the Ministry that any application for 'letter of intent' is to be disposed of within a specific time.

SHRIMATI USHA THAKKAR : Kutch in Gujarat is a very backward area and there are huge reserves of Ventomine Lignite there. There has been a long-standing demand for an Alumina plant there. I want to know whether Government are considering to set up industries there ?

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN : The Hon. Member is asking about Kutch. As I have already said, there are many areas including Kutch, where industries have not reached so far. The very objective of this policy is to have a balanced and proper development and to set up industries in all parts of the country. That is why this scheme has been made attractive. We shall certainly consider if any application from that area is received.

[English]

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : According to the present criteria, if there is a small unit in a district, that district cannot come under the category of no-industry district. My district Purulia is one of the most backward districts of our country where there is a small industry, a mini-steel plant, having 300 workers. But this district Purulia does not come under the category of no-industry district. That is why it is not getting any benefit or any central subsidy under this scheme. So, in view of this, may I know whether the Government will review the present criteria and make some change in the same ?

SHRI P. KOLANDAIVELU : Instead of district it should be the taluk.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : No-industry block or no industry taluk.

MR. SPEAKER : The question has already been answered.

SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : No, Sir, he has not answered.

SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN : Having any small industrial unit does not disqualify a district from coming into the category of no-industry district. As I have

stated earlier, a quick identification was conducted in 1981 of those districts where no large-scale or medium-scale industry was located. They were all included in the list of no-industry districts. But still many suggestions were coming for making the scheme more attractive and more effective for dispersal of industries in the backward areas. That is the reason why an inter-ministerial committee has been constituted and this committee is expected to submit its report to the Government by the end of the year.

Development of Bombay Off-shore Project

*109. SHRI SHARAD DIGHE : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decided that the Oil and Natural Gas Commission should undertake further phase of development of Bombay Off-shore project and have requested State Government to make available 225 hectares of land for processing plant and 125 hectares of land for green belt as per Department of Environment stipulations; and

(b) if so, the progress made so far ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA): (a) and (b). ONGC had prepared a scheme for integrated development of Western Off-shore including Bombay High region which envisaged among other things setting up of a second oil and gas terminal south of Uran.

At the request of ONGC Maharashtra Government had surveyed a number of sites and suggested a site at Usar in Distt. Raigarh. Further action would be taken when adequate funds become available for the project.

SHRI SHARAD DIGHE : Sir, this proposal to undertake further phase of Development of Bombay Off-shore project and to set up a second oil and gas terminal south of Uran has been pending for a long time. The Oil and Natural Gas Commission first struck oil in Bombay High in early 1974 and started its commercial production in May 1975. About 10 million tonnes per annum of crude oil was initially being explored and it was gradually to be increased to 20 million tonnes per annum by the end of 1984-85. Corres-

pondingly, the production of associated gas which was initially estimated to be 4 million cubic metres per day was expected to be increased to about 8 to 9 million cubic metres per day by the year 1984-85. The place has already been identified by the Maharashtra Government, and the Maharashtra Government has informed about it by their letter dated 14th January 1984, that is, as far back as 1984. My question is: How long it will now take further to provide funds for the scheme ?

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA : It is a fact that the Chief Secretary of Maharashtra Government by his letter dated 14th January 1984 informed the Secretary (Petroleum) about the availability of the land. But this project required Rs. 2,512 crores and this has to be in two phases. As the Hon. Member is aware, we are facing constraint of resources, and in view of the constraint of resources till the Seventh Plan allocation is finalised, it would be difficult for me to say when this project would come.

SHRI SHARAD DIGHE : I would like to know whether the Government of India has given its approval to the site at Usar in Raigarh district, which has been proposed by the Government of Maharashtra for this purpose.

SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA : It is true that we have given the approval.

Funds for Exploration and Production of Petroleum Products

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*110. SHRI DHARAM PAL SINGH MALIK :
SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item appearing in the 'Hindustan Times' dated 21 June, 1985 under the heading "Oil Ministry starved of funds";

(b) if so, what are the facts;

(c) how far it will affect the exploration and production of petroleum products in the country; and