

time in the light of the material available in respect of the activities of the party.

Approach to Development Activities for Adivasis

*255. SHRI AMARSINH V. RATHAWA: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state what is the approach of the Planning Commission in regard to the development activities exclusively meant for Adivasis in the society?

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING (SHRI N. D. TEWARI): The basic approach to the development of Adivasis has been to identify and develop areas of tribal concentration which include scheduled areas, contiguous Tribal Development Blocks, other Blocks/areas having 50 per cent and more tribal population and formulate a separate sub-plan under the overall State Plan. The outlays are earmarked from the sectoral plans in proportion to the total population living in the area with varying weightage to their backwardness. Sixteen States and two Union Territories implement separate sub-plans by identifying schemes under each sector of development which can directly benefit scheduled tribes/ areas.

2. The long-term objectives of the sub-plans have been:—

(i) narrowing the gap between the levels of development of tribals and other areas; and

(ii) improving their quality of life consistent with their socio-cultural traditions.

To achieve these objectives, elimination of exploitation of tribals, through land alienation, indebtedness, bonded labour, barter of produce etc. has been given due priority. Excise and Forest policies have been reviewed.

In development programmes priority has been given to agriculture specially horticulture, animal husbandry and allied sectors, irrigation facilities specially mini-irrigation schemes and industries based on forest and other local produce. Infra-structure like roads, power, schools and health programmes have been linked with economic programme. Efforts have been made to introduce a voluntary change in the traditional shifting methods of agriculture. Research and training programmes have been strengthened. Organisations for integrated credit-cum-marketing like Tribal Development Corporation and Large Area Multipurpose Societies have been set up. Non-formal education for drop-outs and adults has been emphasised. The administrative structure has been reviewed to provide more effective services to the tribals.

Production of Weapons Grade Uranium by Pakistan

*256. SHRI ARJUN SETHI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Pakistan is progressing towards the stage to produce weapons grade uranium; and

(b) if so, whether Indian Government propose to produce weapons grade uranium for the defence of our country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI C. P. N. SINGH): (a) Available information indicates that Pakistan is continuing its efforts to produce weapons grade Uranium.

(b) Government's stand on this question is well known. Government remain committed to the policy of utilising Atomic Energy for peaceful purposes.