

who on their own or after obtaining the counsel of leading Ulemas and Jurists, can give appropriate advice to the Government on such matter of social legislation as are likely to affect the Personal Law of the Muslim community.

SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I thank the hon. Minister for his kind reply.

MR. SPEAKER: What? It is just a thanks.

SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA: Thanks for his kind reply Sir, the Muslim Personal Law Board includes leading Ulemas from all schools of thought and leading personalities.

Therefore, I want to ask a specific question as to whether in matters of any proposed legislation concerning the Muslim Personal Laws, will the Government take this Board into confidence and discuss matters with them in order to avoid any misunderstanding or ex-post facto agitation on some such thing when the Board has offered its cooperation to the Government.

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA: The Government will certainly take the advice of the Board and also of all eminent jurists as well as the other minorities.

SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA: So many matters are mentioned. Will the Government therefore tell the House how long it will take to formulate its reactions to the various issues raised, especially, when some of them are very simple like an amendment of the Land Acquisition Act barring the acquisition of properties of religious significance? It was never the intention of this Act that properties of religious significance like temples, mosques, churches, gurdwaras and shrines are to be acquired. But, such a situation has come up in view of the decision of the Court.

Therefore, will the Government expedite the formulation of its reactions to the various issues raised by the Board? And how long will the Government take to do so?

SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA: It will be done as early as possible.

Regional Imbalances

*454. **SHRI K. PRADHANI:** Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to evolve a new approach with the objective of correcting the existing regional imbalances and creating a smooth impetus in representative areas;

(b) if so, the details of the proposed scheme;

(c) whether any survey in this regard has been conducted; and

(d) if so, the outcome of the survey so conducted?

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING (SHRI N. D. TIWARI): (a) Government concern for correcting existing regional imbalances and for taking steps to prevent fresh imbalances dates back to the inception of planned development in the country. This approach has resulted in drawing up special programmes according to the conditions of each State, such as the Hill Areas and Tribal Areas Development Programme, the Drought Prone Area Programme, Command Area Development Programme, the Minimum Needs Programme, incentive schemes for the industrially backward districts etc.

Apart from these schemes, the formula for distribution of Central assistance is weighted in favour of those States whose per capital income is below the national average. Central assistance is also allocated for special problems. Any further guidelines and programmes would be reflected in the

Sixth Five Year Plan which is currently under preparation.

(b) to (d). In view of (a), these questions do not arise.

SHRI K. PRADHANI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, even after taking all the steps just mentioned by the Minister the regional imbalance between the richer and the poorer States is increasing day by day. Therefore, may I know whether the Government have any proposal to adopt a procedure to give more money to the poorer States on the lines suggested by Professor Raj Krishna in the Seventh Finance Commission?

SHRI N. D. TIWARI: Sir, as I have already mentioned, the Sixth Five Year Plan is under preparation and our basic approach to this problem of regional imbalance and the problem of removal of backwardness in the backward States and backward regions of the so-called advanced States will be dealt with in detail. We have set-up a national committee for consideration of development of backward areas under the Chairmanship of Shri Sivaraman a well-known expert in this field. We are expecting the report of this Committee by the end of this year but we are asking Shri Sivaraman that he should expedite this report so that we can go into the details of the matter and consider all these aspects in the formulation of the Sixth Five Year Plan.

SHRI K. PRADHANI: Sir, I come from the State of Orissa where 40 per cent of the people are scheduled castes and scheduled tribes and more than 71 per cent of the people live below the poverty line. In view of this fact, whether Government has proposed to increase the allotment under tribal development and scheduled castes development during the Sixth Five Year Plan?

SHRI N. D. TIWARI: I may assure the hon'ble Member that we

shall take into fullest consideration the needs of Orissa and the needs of scheduled tribes and scheduled castes population of Orissa while framing the Sixth Five Year Plan.

SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV: Sir, the whole of North Eastern region is considered to be a backward area, especially Arunachal, Meghalaya and my district Cachar and part of Mizoram. But while drawing the attention of the Planning Minister for the last four months we are getting the reply 'looking into'. May I know when the phase of 'looking into' will be over and action will start in the North Eastern region under the Planning Minister.

SHRI N. D. TIWARI: The hon'ble Member will agree with me that I have never had the opportunity to express to him this particular expression 'being looked into'. But I may assure the hon'ble Member that as far as the North Eastern part of the country is concerned, the Government is very much alive to the developmental problems of this area and the Finance Minister in his budget speech and in many of his formulations here has already mentioned we are prepared to give a more allocated plan outlay for the North Eastern region and for Assam. We hope that the political situation there would normalise soon and we will be able to formulate these plans for execution.

श्री झारखंड राय मंत्री सदोदय को अनभव होगा कि जो तथाकथित उन्नत प्रदेश देश के हैं उन में भी कुछ ऐसे होते हैं जो बहुत पिछड़े होते हैं और जो पिछड़े प्रदेश हैं उन में कुछ क्षेत्र ऐसे हैं जो बहुत ही पिछड़े हुए हैं? योजना बनाने समय उस प्रान्त या पूरे देश के मामले में इन बातों का भी पूरा ध्यान रखा जाएगा?

श्री नारायण दत्त तिवारी : मैं माननीय विज्ञान मन्त्रय को आश्वस्त करना चाहता हूँ कि सरकार का दृष्टिकोण उसी प्रकारता को परिलक्षित करता है जिग का उल्लेख उन्होंने अपने प्रश्न में किया है। जो प्रदेश विकसित कहे जाते हैं--वैसे तो विकसित प्रदेश वे भी उस अर्थों में नहीं हैं जिग अर्थों में विकसित नमक देशों की गणना होती है--लेकिन फिर भी तथाकथित

विकसित प्रदेशों में भी पिछड़े हुए क्षेत्र हैं और ऐसे क्षेत्रों की उन्नति के लिए जैसा मैंने अभी पूर्व उत्तर में कहा, हमारा प्रयास होगा कि साधनों की सीमा के अन्तर्गत रहते हुए और माननीय सदस्य के सहयोग से इस क्षेत्रीय असन्तुलन को कम कर सकें।

श्रीमती कृष्णा साही : माननीय मंत्री महोदय ने बताया है कि शिवारामन कमेटी बनी है और उसका प्रतिवेदन एक वर्ष में प्राप्त हो जाएगा। उसके बाद एक साल और लगेगा कुछ कार्रवाई होने में। हम अर्म में क्षेत्रीय असन्तुलन और भी बढ़ जाएगा। ऐसी अवस्था में जो क्षेत्र पिछड़े हुए हैं उनके लिए कोई शार्ट टर्म कार्यक्रम बनाने पर मंत्री महोदय विचार कर रहे हैं ताकि यह क्षेत्रीय असन्तुलन दो वर्षों के अन्दर कुछ कम हो सके?

श्री नारायण दत्त तिवारी : मैं माननीय विद्वान सदस्या का ध्यान अपने पूर्व के उत्तर के सन्दर्भ में पुनः आकषित करना चाहता हूँ। मैंने यह कहा था कि हमने शिवारामन समिति से आग्रह किया है कि वह अपनी संस्तुतियाँ समय से कुछ पहले देने का कष्ट करें ताकि छठी योजना को बनाते समय हम क्षेत्रीय असन्तुलन को दूर करने के सम्बन्ध में जो उपाय करने हैं उन पर विचार करके उनको कार्यान्वित भी कर सकें। मैंने स्वयं उल्लेख किया है और मैं माननीय विद्वान सदस्या के मनोभावों का आदर करता हूँ और उनकी पीड़ा के मर्म को समझता हूँ और उसका आदर अवश्य किया जाएगा।

SHRI C. T. DHANDAPANI: Right from 50s, the same procedures are being followed even though the formula is being changed according to the Finance Commission's recommendations, as far as Planning is concerned. The Minister said about the constitution of a committee to go into the problems of the backward areas, the SC and ST people. Have any specific terms of reference been given to the committee? If so, what are the terms of reference? If not, will that committee investigate into the matters according to this formula, about the imbalance between the States? The hon. Minister said, it should be rectified. Even in advanced States there are imbalances between districts. Even in the same district you have very backward areas. But, on the whole, Government takes a particular district as a 'forward district' or a

'developed district' So, in most cases backward areas remain backward. I want to know whether the Government has proposed any scheme to look into the matter and whether the Government has declared certain areas as backward areas.

SHRI N. D. TIWARI: Sir, I find myself in complete agreement as far as the analysis given by the hon. Member regarding criteria of backwardness in districts, inter-State and within the State is concerned. Sir, within the parliamentary democratic framework, we have to carry on the States with us. We cannot just bulldoze the formula for plans. The National Development Council took into considerations all the factors, the proposals made by the Planning Commission and in the States their own formula and then the formula for central assistance was given. Then the State Governments also considered this aspect and for their own State plans they considered the backwardness of the areas pertaining to their State from their own point of view. So, we have to consider all these factors. As far as terms of reference go, I may like to read out the terms of reference mentioned in the Sivaraman Committee Report.

"To examine the validity of the various concepts of backwardness underlying the definition in use for present policy purposes and recommend the criteria by which backward areas should be identified.

2. To review the working of:

(a) existing plans for dealing with the general developmental problems of backward areas like tribal Sub-plans, Plans for Hill areas, etc.

(b) existing schemes for stimulating industrial development in backward areas such as the schemes for concessional finance, investment subsidy, transport subsidy sales tax concessions, etc., similar schemes in the agricultural and allied fields like

DPAP and general measures for tackling the problems of poverty and unemployment with a view to find out their efficacy in the removal of backward areas; and

3. To recommend an appropriate strategy or strategies for effectively tackling the problem of backward areas classified, if necessary, according to areas, causes or prescribed remedies."

Simplification of Industrial Licensing Procedure

*455 SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government want to simplify industrial licensing procedures;

(b) if so, steps so far taken in this regard; and

(c) how Government intend to tackle old procedure of applications passing through multiplicity of committee approvals?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI P. VENKATA REDDY): (a) to (c). Each application for an industrial licence is considered under the Industries (Development & Regulation) Act by only one statutorily notified approval committee, which thereupon makes its recommendations for a decision by Government, after taking into account all relevant considerations. Thus, under the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act there does not arise any question of a multiplicity of approval committees on one and the same application.

Government is constantly endeavouring to ensure that application for industrial licences etc. are disposed of with stipulated time-limits.

श्री छोटुभाई गामित : अध्यक्ष महोदय, हमारे देश में औद्योगिक क्षेत्र में जो 15, 20 बड़े घराने हैं, उनका ही साम्राज्य है। आज भी देश में जो उद्योगों के लाइसेंस मिलते हैं, उनके

बारे में शिकायतें प्राती रहती हैं। छोटे उद्योग लगाने वालों को लाइसेंस मिलते नहीं हैं, बड़े उद्योग लगाने वालों को ही मिलते हैं। अभी हमारे देश में लघु उद्योग विकास की नीति घानाई गई है, लेकिन लघु उद्योगों में भी वहां लोग लाइसेंस प्राप्त करते हैं जो बड़े घराने के हैं।

मैं मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूँ कि जो लघु उद्योग लगाने वाले हैं, जो औद्योगिक दृष्टि से पिछड़े या आदिवासी क्षेत्र हैं, जहां बेरोजगारों की संख्या बहुत बड़ी होती है, वहां रोजगार बढ़ाने के लिए जो लघु उद्योग लगाने वाले लोग हैं, उनको जल्दी से जल्दी लाइसेंस मिल सकें, इसके लिए मन्त्रालय की ओर से क्या कदम उठाये गये हैं? क्या ऐसा कोई समय निर्धारित किया गया है, जिससे कम-से-कम टाइम में उनको लाइसेंस मिल सके?

SHRI P. VENKATA REDDY: As a result of the initiative taken in 1975, 1976 and subsequent years, an Industrial Licensing Policy was liberalised. The Hon'ble Member's complaint is that licences are not being given to set up an industry under the small-scale sector. I would like to inform the hon. Member that for setting up a small industry under small-scale sector no licence is required. There are more than 800 industries which have been notified as reserved for small-scale sector. For these units, no licence is necessary as per the Industrial Licensing Policy. As regards industrial licences upto investment of three crores of rupees, there is no necessary for obtaining an industrial licence under certain conditions. Therefore, for small scale industries licensing is not at all needed. There is only one committee to deal with and approve different applications, that is applications for industrial licences by houses covered under MRTP Act, composite applications seeking more than one approval and other industrial licences. There will be no delay; the whole thing has been simplified.

श्री छोटुभाई गामित : मंत्री महोदय से जानना चाहता हूँ कि पिछले एक वर्ष में टाटा, बिडला जैसे बड़े घरानों ने लाइसेंस के लिए कितनी एप्लिकेशन दीं और दूसरे लोगों ने कितनी दी और उन में से बड़े घरानों को कितने लाइसेंस दिये गये और दूसरे लोगों को कितने दिये गये