

in the Plan Framework published recently & laid on the Table of the Lok Sabha.

(b) Provisional results of the 32 round of the National Sample Survey Organisation indicate that the volume of unemployment on a daily status basis for the age group 15—59 was 16.9 million in 1977-78; of this 12.8 million were in the rural areas and 4.1 million in the urban areas.

(c) It is no doubt true that a rapid increase in labour force aggravates the problem of unemployment.

(d) Various schemes for employment generation are under consideration. Details will be given in the Sixth Plan now under formulation.

Review of Arms Act

*339. SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY:

SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to review of the Arms Act and rules thereunder in the context of present conditions; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) A review of the Arms Act/Rules has been undertaken.

(b) Details of the amendments proposed to be made in the Act/Rules have not yet been finalised.

Supply of Gas Mantles to Iran

*340. SHRI HIRALAL R. PARMAR: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a request has been made to National Small Industries Corporation by Iran for the supply of one lakh gas mantles; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto and the time by which supply thereof will be made and the amount

of foreign exchange to be earned thereby?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI CHARANJIT CHANANA): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. On an enquiry from a private organisation in Iran, NSIC had quoted for supply of 20,000 gross of gas mantles, indicating the likely supply price. However, details of the contract, including financial arrangements and shipments by air freight are yet to be finalised.

Guidelines by Prime Minister to State regarding transfers of officials

*342. SHRI RATANSINH RAJDA :
PROF. MADHU DANDA-
VATE:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any guideline/advice has been given by the Prime Minister regarding mass transfers of officials resorted to by various State Governments; and

(b) if so, the details of such guidelines and the need for issuing the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH): (a) and (b). The Prime Minister has not given any guideline/advice regarding mass transfers of officials by State Governments. However, in August, 1980, the Prime Minister addressed a letter to the Chief Ministers of the States where Congress (I) Party is in power and to the Union Ministers emphasising the importance of speed, efficiency and integrity in the implementation of Government's policies and programmes. She also, *inter alia*, pointed out that undue interest on the part of political persons in transfers of officials adversely affected the functioning of the administration and that the already existing instructions that Government servants including teachers and semi-Government and

public sector employees should not resort to political pressures regarding their transfers and postings needed reiteration.

हिमाचल प्रदेश में उधोगों की स्थापना के लिए जारी किए गए लाइसेंस

*343. श्री कृष्ण वल्ल सुस्तानपुरी: क्या उधोग मंत्री निम्नलिखित जानकारी दर्शाने वाला विवरण सभा पटल पर रखने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) गत दो वर्षों के दौरान हिमाचल प्रदेश में कितने औद्योगिक लाइसेंस प्रदान किए गए हैं;

(ख) उनमें से लाइसेंसों के आधार पर कितने उधोगों की स्थापना वास्तव में की गई है; और

(ग) राज्य सरकारों से उन व्यक्तियों के विरुद्ध क्या कार्यवाही करने को कहा जा रहा है, जिन्होंने उधोगों की स्थापना नहीं की है।

उधोग मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री चरणजीत चानना): (क) वर्ष 1978 तथा 1979 में हिमाचल प्रदेश के लिए 5 औद्योगिक लाइसेंस स्वीकृत किए गए थे।

(ख) इन पांच में से दो एककों में उत्पादन प्रारम्भ हो गया है।

(ग) यदि आवेदक पाटी बिना उचित कारण बताए निरिच्छित समय अथवा बढ़ाई गई अवधि के अन्दर उपक्रम स्थापित करने में असफल रहती है या उपक्रम स्थापित करने के लिए भावी कदम नहीं उठाती तो ऐसे मामलों में केन्द्रीय सरकार जारी किए गए औद्योगिक लाइसेंस का प्रति संहरण कर सकती है।

Alternatives to expensive Solar Power Satellites

*344. SHRI K. LAKKAPPA:

SHRI H. N. NANJE GOWDA:

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Scientists have found cheaper alternatives to ex-

pensive Solar Power Satellites to meet its energy;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the advantages which are likely to be derived out of solar energy in different fields?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI-MATI INDIRA GANDHI): (a) to (c). Solar power satellites represent one of the many concepts developed for the utilisation of solar energy. While no satellite has yet been launched exclusively to tap solar energy, intensive studies have been carried out on the technical and economic feasibility of this concept. The basic idea is to establish a satellite in a geosynchronous orbit with a large photovoltaic array consisting of solar cells to convert solar energy to electricity. The electrical energy is then transmitted to earth in the form of microwaves or laser beams.

Among the major advantages of solar energy conversion in space are the higher amount of intensity available compared to locations on earth, uniform and uninterrupted availability of energy, absence of terrestrial environmental effects etc. A study carried out by NASA of USA for a 5,000 MW solar power satellite indicates that the satellite would require an array of solar cells of size 10.4 km 5.2 km. The antenna to receive the microwave power on earth would be about 10 km in diameter. The capital costs of solar power satellites are estimated to be at least 3-4 times higher compared to terrestrial solar power systems.

India has currently no plans relating to energy based on satellites. The programme relates to terrestrial systems for utilisation of solar energy. The basic technology for direct conversion of solar energy into electricity by photovoltaic cells has already been developed in India. The main problem now is to bring down the cost per peak watt of electricity by this method to a reasonable level; and this is the primary objective of the current programme of the Department of