

(c) whether it is also a fact that the applications for the setting up of units recommended by the Punjab Government are not speedily cleared ;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor ;

(e) number and particulars of such applications still pending with his ministry; and

(f) the effective measures which Government propose to take to remove this grievance of Punjab ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI CHARANJIT CHANANA) (a) & (b) : No, Sir. Central Public Sector Projects, namely Nangal Fertilizers Ltd., Nangal, Semi Conductor Complex, Mohali and National Fertilizers and Chemicals Ltd., Bhatinda have been set up in Punjab State. Besides, Punjab State Industrial Development Corporation has received Letters of Intent/Industrial Licences for 55 projects.

(c) to (f) . Every effort is made to dispose of pending applications as expeditiously as possible without prejudice to any State. Out of the 72 Industrial Licence applications received during the year 1980 (upto October, 1980), only 13 applications are pending of which 11 applications are within prescribed limits and only two are beyond the prescribed time limit. Details of any application pending before Government for consideration are not published until after Government has taken a view thereon.

Proposals from the State Government/ Potential entrepreneur for location of industries in Punjab would continue to receive favourable consideration within the framework of National Plan.

SHRI R.L. BHATIA : In reply to parts (a) and (b) of the question, the hon. Minister has said that there are three public sector projects set up in the Punjab. But, Nangal project was set up in the Punjab I think some 30 years back. When a question is put, the Minister must reply as to what they have been able to do recently.

What is the total investment in the public sector in the Punjab and its ratio to the all-India investment in the public sector ?

SHRI CHARANJIT CHANANA : It is Rs. 344.5 crores, and the ratio is 2.2 per cent.

SHRI R.L. BHATIA : I would like to know if there is any proposal to set up public sector industries in the Punjab in the sixth Plan.

SHRI CHARANJIT CHANANA : There are four projects which have been proposed by the Punjab Government, and all these are under the consideration of the Planning Commission for finalising the Sixth Plan.

Training for Space Programme

445. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY :
SHRI G. S. REDDY :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have decided to send some cosmonauts to Soviet Space town for training for the space programme ; and

(b) if so, the number of these persons and when are they likely to be sent ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND ELECTRONICS (SHRI C.P.N. SINGH) : (a) and (b). Government of India's willingness to accept the Soviet offer has been indicated, no details have so far been worked out.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : Indo-Soviet joint space flight is a significant indication of growing scope for joint space research. All these flights are meant to advance the cause of science and also add to the knowledge of outer space. In this context may I know from the hon. Minister whether a person with science and engineering knowledge or background will be chosen as a cosmonaut and whether it is true that Indian participation is confined and limited to cosmonauts only and not for the promotion of scientific co-operation?

SHRI C. P. N. SINGH : The Programme with Soviet Russia is for scientific development. It is not merely for sending a cosmonaut into space.

He asked whether a scientific person would be sent up. These details are yet to be worked out, and when the details are worked out, we would know.

SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY : When this invitation was extended, it was rejected when our former Prime Minister went to Russia, and there was thinking in the Indian space research organisation at that time that the Indian research programme was only application-oriented, and that adventures like putting a man or an animal into space did not have any relevance. They did not attach much importance to this. So, may I know whether this

policy has been reversed and whether the Indian research organisation has got any programme in the near future for putting a man into space and if so, the details thereof, and if not why not?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI): As hon. Members know, to go into space requires very strenuous training. It is not something that can be done immediately. So we have to be very careful in choosing, a person who can stand the physical and the mental strain and also one who will benefit from the experience. All science is a search for experience, for truth, for knowledge. This is why we welcome this opportunity to enable our scientists and others to increase their knowledge which can be useful in many other fields.

SHRI G. S. REDDY: While welcoming the stand of the Government, I want to bring to the notice of the hon. Prime Minister the news item 'Joint flight into space not far off' in the *Patriot*. Speaking at a civic reception Shri Brezhnev said—

"Now our countries are preparing for Gagarin's dream to come true. The day will come when cosmonauts from India and Soviet Union will make joint flight and the peoples of both countries will enthusiastically welcome it. Gagarin's dream was that he would be glad to fly into outer space along with Indian cosmonaut."

May I know from the hon. Prime Minister what is the reaction of the Government of India?

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: This is because we reacted, that this question has arisen. We accepted the offer made by the Soviet Government. This is what Shri Brezhnev mentioned in his speech. They had made this offer earlier but for some reason it was not accepted. We looked at the proposal again and we thought and the scientists & others whom we consulted felt that it would be useful for us, apart from the scientific fallout and experience, I think this is something that will inspire and enthuse our young people.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY: I would like to know from the Government that in view of the statement of the Minister that nothing has been worked out, they have no clear idea of the objective and in view of the fact that the Janata Government, when it examined the pro-

posals found that the Cubans, had been sent into space by the Russians the Czechoslovakians have been sent, the Bulgarians have been sent, the Janta Government felt after reviewing the scientific evidence after consulting the scientists that no useful scientific information will be available by just sending an Indian into the space. I would like to know from the Government concrete reasons why this change has taken place. The same scientists told the Janta Government that no useful addition to the stock of knowledge will take place. Reviewing the fact that Cubans, Bulgarians and Hungarians have already gone, this kind of acceptance on the part of the Government would mean that we are also slowly following the path of the Cubans, Bulgarians and the Hungarians and there is no other gain from this.

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: This is an extra ordinary statement. If somebody does a worth-while thing, are we not going to do it? If other persons—Cuban, Bulgarian or somebody else.... (*Interruptions*). Americans have also sent men in space.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY: Why not with the aid of U.S.A.?

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: Soviet Union has made us the offer. The U.S.A. has not made an offer.

DR. SUBRAMANIAM SWAMY: The same scientists told us.....

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: You have made several statements. I cannot answer them all at once. I have to take them up one by one. You spoke last about the Cubans, Bulgarians and Hungarians. We are glad that these people have gone up. But as I said, scientific experience and experiment remains a scientific experiment regardless of the nationality of those who do it. I have not spoken to the Bulgarians, or Cubans or Hungarians. I do not know if our scientists, whom the hon. Member mentioned, have spoken to these people. I doubt it very much. But we do think that it is a useful experience and many people we have spoken to also feel like that. Every experience in life is useful. Mr. Swamy has no personal experience of this and therefore cannot speak of its utility. It is of use in the realm of science which is moving so fast in the world of to-day. I do not think India can afford to be left behind in this matter. We do not know what opportunities the other people had. But we shall certainly try to make most of it.