

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : Sir, It is under examination. There are certain other unions who want that the decision on this should be taken simultaneously and once for all. Even though a decision with respect to a certain section of employees is arrived at by the Government, a demand is made by the employees that a decision applicable to all the employees taken together should be taken. Hence the delay. We will try to resolve it as soon as possible.

SHRI E. BALANANDAN : The Minister has said that the question of payment of bonus is under examination. Will the Minister be pleased to give an indication within how much time this decision will be taken. Will the bonus be given with retrospective effect from 1977 onwards?

SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL : The matter is under consideration and after we come to a certain conclusion, I will be able to answer this question. I have already mentioned that the final decision will be taken as soon as possible.

Setting up of Public Undertakings in Tamil Nadu

*1076. **SHRI N. DENNIS :** Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government of Tamil Nadu and the Central Government have plans for opening industrial undertakings in the industrially backward areas of Tamil Nadu;

(b) if so, details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI P. A. SANGMA) : (a) to (c). On the basis of the State Government's identification of two areas, viz. Pudukotai and Dindigul, both

covered under the Central Investment Subsidy Scheme, a Task Force has been set up to identify project possibilities with ancillary linkages that could be developed in these areas under the nucleus plant programme.

SHRI N. DENNIS : Many districts classified as backward remain backward as before for years without any change or improvement as no special or concrete or definite step is taken for setting up industrial establishments. May I know whether any survey about the industrial prospects of backward districts in the State has been conducted; whether Government would consider making a specific approach, apart from the general approach, to each and every case to suit its conditions and circumstances for development and whether local Committees would be formed in such backward districts in this regard? Where there are ample scope and possibilities and also infrastructural facilities for establishment of specific industry or industries in a backward area, may I know whether Government would come forward to establish such industry or industries in such backward areas? May I also know whether the backward areas, not identified by the State, would be taken up for development?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI CHARANJIT CHANANA) : Under the policy guideline, the first thing we are doing is, we are taking up the areas already identified as industrially backward. In fact, this is what we are doing by appointing a Task Force. It is not a general work at all; the main task before the Task Force will be to identify specifically the projects which could be set up in the districts or the areas concerned, and this will be done according to the industrial potential of the area, along with the other indicators of technoeconomic potential of the area.

SHRI N. DENNIS : The Kanyakumari district of Tamil Nadu is classified as an industrially backward district, but not even a single industry, either in the public sector or in the private sector, has been established there though there are ample scope and possibilities and also infrastructural facilities for the establishment of rubber-based industries and also titanium industry. The per unit production of rubber there is the highest in the country. Qualitatively also it occupies the highest place. Similarly black illminite to the extent of 50,000 tonnes annually is exported to foreign countries where it is converted into costly titanium dioxide. So, may I know from the Hon. Minister whether the Government would come forward to establish rubber-based industries and titanium industry in the industrially backward districts? I have repeatedly brought this matter to the notice of the Government. It is noticed that the tempo of implementation goes down and down in consonance with the distance it travels, and when it reaches a distant place like Kanyakumari, it subsides and there is nothing to implement. So, may I know from the Hon. Minister whether Government would consider this aspect of neglect and take steps for setting up industrial establishments in such distant backward places thereby translating into action the intention of the Government of decentralisation?

SHRI CHARANJIT CHANANA : As far as the process of industrialisation for the industrially backward areas is concerned, the two areas identified by the State Government would be taken up first. By that, it does not mean that Kanyakumari will be ignored at all. I have already, in response to the Hon. Member's letter, written to him that we will do all that is required to be done for promoting industry which is local-raw-material based — as he has said, rubber, etc.; we will do all that.

Child Labour

*1077. **SHRIMATI USHA PRAKASH CHAUDHARI ;** Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether a survey has been made about children below 15 years who are forced to take up employment ;

(b) if so, the results of that survey ; and

(c) the steps contemplated by Government to prevent employment of child labour?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Based on National Sample Survey, the number of working children as on March, 1978, was estimated at 16.25 million. The Labour Bureau also conducted a rapid survey on Child Labour in 1979 in selected organised industries under the Factories Act, 1948 and in Plantation Labour Act, 1951 and also in unorganised industry. It was observed that a majority of working children come from very poor families and work to supplement the earnings of the family. They are also generally compelled to discontinue their studies.

(c) Government had appointed a Committee on Child Labour in February, 1979 to look into the problems arising out of employment of children. The Committee submitted its report in December, 1979. In pursuance of the decision of Government on the recommendations of that Committee, a Central Advisory Board on Child Labour has been constituted with the Minister for Planning and Labour as Chairman, to recommend the industries and areas where there must be progressive elimination of working children.