

SHRI M. SATYANARAYAN RAO: I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether there is any discrimination between Maharashtra and other States so far as power is concerned, because, recently, the Minister of Irrigation and Power himself admitted that "I have got only the Power Ministry and I have no political power behind me to sanction schemes." He has expressed his inability. Is it a fact the Planning Minister as well as the Finance Minister are not extending any help to Andhra Pradesh which, as you know, is also a backward area and it is experiencing an unprecedented drought condition?

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA: The Central Government is interested in the balanced growth of the whole of the country and I can assure the hon. Member that there was no discrimination and there will be no discrimination whether it is Andhra, Maharashtra or Tamilnadu or West Bengal.

डा० गोविन्दबास रिछारिया : अभी तक पंच-वर्षीय योजनाओं में केन्द्रीय सहायता के अन्तर्गत जो रुपया बितरित किया गया है, आबादी के हिसाब से उसका वितरण न होने के कारण उत्तर प्रदेश और बिहार जैसे प्रदेश पीछे रह गये हैं। क्या सरकार पांचवीं पंच-वर्षीय योजना में ऐसे सिद्धान्त बनाएगी, जिन के अनुसार इन राज्यों को समानता के आधार पर रुपया मिल सके? क्या सरकार ने यह सिद्धान्त स्वीकार कर लिया है कि पांचवीं पंच-वर्षीय योजना में बिजली और सिंचाई योजनाओं को प्राथमिकता दी जायेगी? जो पिछड़े हुए प्रदेश हैं, या जो प्रदेशों के पीछड़े हुए हिस्से हैं, क्या पांचवीं पंच-वर्षीय योजना में उन को इतना रुपया दिया जायेगा कि वे दूसरे क्षेत्रों के समान स्तर पर आ जायें?

SHRI MOHAN DHARI: I have already stated the formula on which the Central assistance is given; sixty per cent of it is on the basis of population. So far as the Fifth Plan is concerned, as has been asked by the hon. Member, we shall lay emphasis on irrigation and power projects all over the country, particularly in backward areas if I may bring it to the notice of the hon. Members, the national programme on minimum needs is from that point of view and if the backward villages and their difficulties are identified I have no doubt that priority will go to the backward areas. Besides, I can assure the House that it will be our endeavour to see that those who are lagging behind will be given all possible help from the Centre.

SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER: North Bengal is a backward area and I should like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government had sanctioned any assistance during the Fifth Plan for the development of North Bengal, especially the tribal areas and backward areas of West Bengal?

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA: It is a separate question but for the information of the hon. Member I can say that what we do is to give grants on the basis of block grants. In the Fifth Plan we should like to discuss with the State Governments so that we can take into consideration the problems of the backward areas also.

Economic Cooperation between India and other countries on the pattern of Indo-Soviet Commission

*509. **SHRI SAMAR GUHA:** Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether organisational pattern on the lines of Indo-Soviet Commission for economic cooperation exists between India and any other country other than Bangla Desh; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI MOHAN DHARIA): (a) Yes, Sir. India has set up Joint Commissions with Afganistan, Czechoslovakia, Iran, Poland, Sri Lanka and Sweden in addition to one with the Soviet Union.

(b) Does not arise.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: Is it a fact that India is having both export and import relations as well as aid relations with hard currency countries in greater volume than COMICON countries, and that during 1971-72 both the exports and imports to the COMICON countries decline and if so what are the reasons? May I know why such joint economic commissions have not been established with regard to any of the hard currency countries? Has the attention of the Government been drawn to reports from Moscow dated October 10, 1972 in which it was stated that the COMICON countries would be glad to have membership publication from India to associate itself with COMICON planning? In view of the statement made on 12 December by the hon. Minister about greater volume of trade with the communist countries, is the Government going to dovetail our plan with the plans of the COMICON countries?

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING (SHRI D. P. DHAR): I have to answer a battery of questions.

MR. SPEAKER: It is not the intention that your reply should be very long.

SHRI D. P. DHAR: I shall take the last question first. There is no proposal under the consideration of the Government to dovetail our plans with the plans of any other country. But, very naturally, in economic relations which we have with so many countries, there is a certain amount of inter-action and that inter-action is inevitable.

The second question is: why we do not have joint commissions with countries which do not fall within the brackets of the COMICON. I would like to draw the kind attention of the hon. Member to the reply which has been given to the question. Iran and Sweden are the two examples which are there. We have joint commissions with many countries and we have various types of relationships in determining our economic cooperation with various countries including U.S.A., including France, Germany and Japan. These committees are the platforms with officials as well as non-officials. Therefore, there is no question of any other discrimination in favour of a country or against a country in having contacts on the basis of committees or commissions. We would only be too glad to respond to any suggestions from any country which are aimed at enriching, deepening and widening our economic and other relations for our mutual benefits.

SHRI SAMAR GUHA: In view of the fact that Russia has recently shown interest to have trade relations as also industrial collaboration with the private sectors in India and as a result of that whether the Director General, Technical Development, has identified 130 such favourable industries and also whether it is a fact that Russia has shown interest for 58 such industries to have collaboration with the private sectors in India including the monopoly houses? If so, what are the details about them? And whether any such collaboration has already taken place or is being proposed to take place.

SHRI D. P. DHAR: It is extremely difficult for the Government to read the source of the private sector.

SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: You do not keep track of the private sector.

SHRI D. P. DHAR: We do keep track as to what the private sector

does within the limits. But, we do not inform ourselves as to what is secretly going on in the minds of any person in this country. This is not physically possible.

(Interruptions)

The Soviet Union is perfectly at liberty to enter into any collaboration provided that such a collaboration is within the procedure and law of the land and it does not impinge upon our policies. I can assure the hon. Member that as far as Soviet Union is concerned, we shall take care to see that they seek the permission of the Government.

Regarding the identification of 150 odd industries in which the Soviet Union are interested, a study has been made. I shall require notice. I shall make inquiries about the identification.

SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: May I know whether the Government are considering having economic cooperation between India and the socialist countries to avoid global conflicts of imperialism in this country?

SHRI MOHAN DHARIA: It is a suggestion for action.

SHRI MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY: Do I understand that any collaboration with any foreign country does not require the approval of the Government?

SHRI D. P. DHAR: I have been completely misunderstood by the hon. member, who ought to know better. The fact is that any collaboration that is entered into by a private party in this country with another party in another country has to be within the framework of the rules and regulations, which include approval, which can be granted only if certain conditions were satisfied.

SHRI G. VISWANATHAN: I want to know whether the monopoly houses are also going to be allowed to have collaborations with Russia, inasmuch

as the Government of India has succeeded in bringing Russia also into the system of mixed economy.

SHRI D. P. DHAR: It will be considered when such a collaboration arrangement is brought to the notice of the Government for their sanction. The question has not so far arisen.

SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE: What is the policy of the Government in this regard?

SHRI D. P. DHAR: There are certain rules and regulations, which are published and which are common knowledge, accordingly to which collaborations are permitted. There are certain restrictions under which monopoly houses are to function both with regard to their expansion and also new investments, whether they are in collaboration with some other party or without collaboration.

SHRI DINESH CHANDRA GOSWAMI: Apprehensions have been expressed in some quarters that in the name of collaboration some of the political powers, whose political influence is dwindling in certain countries, are trying to bring back their power in India. In view of that matter, may I know whether government have evolved any definite policy in the matter of collaboration with other countries?

SHRI D. P. DHAR: The hon. Member has raised a question which, in my humble opinion, has no relevance to the question that we are discussing at the present moment. But I would like to state very categorically that India, being what it is, is not going to be the dumping ground of the rejects of the world.

Setting up of Industries in Backward Districts of North Bengal

*510. **SHRI R. N. BARMAN:** Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to set up industries in the backward Districts of North Bengal;