

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;

(b) whether any industrialist has approached Government so far, for setting up industry in private sector in backward areas of North Bengal; and

(c) the nature of industries Government propose to set up in backward areas of North Bengal in public as well as private sectors?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c). While this Ministry and the Planning Commission have no proposals in this regard, two industrial licences and a letter of intent have been granted since 1971 to three private parties for manufacture of paraformaldehyde, wheat products and Kraft paper.

SHRI R. N. BARMAN: Will the Minister give us details of the parties mentioned in the answer, the total investment, employment potential, location of the proposed industries and the reasons for delay in establishing these industries?

SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE: As I have already mentioned, only two licences have been granted to private parties in 1972. Messrs. Allied Resin & Chemicals, Calcutta, have been permitted to establish a factory to manufacture paraformaldehyde in Cooch Behar. The licence was issued on 25-2-72. Messrs. Bharat Flour Mills, Calcutta, were issued a licence on 9-8-72 to establish a wheat products factory in Jalpaiguri. A letter of intent has been issued to Messrs. G. Locken & Company Pvt. Ltd., for manufacturing Kraft paper in Darjeeling district. The letter of intent was issued on 20-1-73 and it is still to be converted into a licence.

SHRI R. N. BARMAN: North Bengal being the most backward region, apart from these, what other industries have the Government in mind?

SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE: So far as the Government of India, or the Planning Ministry are concerned, they have no specific proposal to establish any industry in North Bengal. But it has been decided in agreement with the State Government that the Small Scale Industries Development organisation there is ready to render all sorts of help like technical advice, financial assistance, marketing facilities to the small entrepreneurs who are eager to establish their industries in North Bengal. All the North Bengal districts are entitled to have concessional finance from the financial institutions.

SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER: May I know whether the government have any proposal to set up a jute mill in North Bengal because North Bengal is a jute-growing area?

SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE: There is no proposal to establish any jute mill in North Bengal, but the West Bengal Industrial Development Corporation has suggested that certain small scale units may be established for jute. There is no specific proposal to establish any factory like this.

SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURY: In view of the cardinal objective of the Government of reduction of regional imbalances, the hon. Minister has just now stated that all attempts should be made by the Government in that direction. But I find from the reply of the Minister that no attempt has been made so far. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether it is a fact that the Government of India in the Ministry of Industrial Development have made several prospecting surveys in various parts of the country, for example, for establishing a paper mill, a cement factory, a fertiliser unit, etc. I want to know whether any prospecting survey has been made of backward region in north Bengal to establish industries on the basis of available raw

materials, such as, a cement factory, a paper, etc., and, if not, why the prospecting survey has not been done and when it will be done.

SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE: In fact, the surveys have been made by two investigations, not only by the Small-scale Industries body of the West Bengal Government but also by the United Bank of India and, on the basis of their surveys, they have suggested that certain small-scale units may be established in north Bengal on the basis of raw materials available....

SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURY: Whether any prospecting survey has been made by your Ministry, by the Government of India.

SHRI PRANAB KUMAR MUKHERJEE: No prospecting survey has been made by the Government of India. So far as paper mill is concerned, sometime back, the West Bengal Industrial Development Corporation suggested the establishment of a paper mill in North Bengal which has a bearing on the State Annual Plan for 1971-72. But there is no such mention in the State Annual Plan for 1972-73.

Cases of Social Boycott of Harijans by Caste Hindu Landlords

*512. **SHRI M. KATHAMUTHU:** Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of cases of social boycott of Harijans by the Caste Hindu landlords have been reported from different parts of the country during the past year;

(b) whether these cases have been investigated; and

(c) if so, the action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) Case of un-

touchability and harassment of Harijans have been reported in different parts of the country.

(b) and (c). These cases are investigated by the State Governments and action is taken under the appropriate law.

SHRI M. KATHAMUTHU: Sir, the answer of the hon. Minister is very inadequate. My question is very specific. I have asked about the social boycott of Harijans by the caste Hindu landlords. But the relevant information is not collected and supplied to us. In fact, in almost all the States, wherever the Harijans happen to be agricultural workers, when they begin to insist for higher wages and also insist for their rights on their home lands, the social boycotts are imposed.

I want to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government is aware of the happenings in the rural India about imposing social boycotts on Harijans. As you know, specially in Punjab, they are imposing some sort of a system known as Nakabandi which is, more or less, a social boycott. They are not allowed to go out of their houses. Such is the situation. I want to know from the hon. Minister why he has failed to collect all the information and supply to us for a discussion.

SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA: The Government is fully aware of the problem that is mentioned by the hon. Member. What I had said was that these cases are registered under various laws. If it is a social boycott, it comes under the Prevention of Untouchability Act; if it is a question of other oppressions and other things, suitable cases are registered. We have always been impressing upon the State Governments that they should give the highest priority for investigation and prosecution of these cases. From time to time, instructions have been sent to the Chief Ministers. When the State Chief Mi-