

(a) whether at a meeting of the representatives of the tyre industry and various Ministries called recently, the plea to exempt new tyre units from price control was made; and

(b) if so, decisions arrived at?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM): (a) and (b). At a meeting held in the Planning Commission on the 13th March, 1974 with representatives of the industry to discuss the Fifth Plan Programme of the tyres and tubes industry a suggestion regarding exemption of new units from price control was made. However there was no consensus on the suggestion.

**Residential Houses for Harijans, Tribals and Backward Classes in Kerala**

\*640 SHRIMATI BHARGAVI THANKAPPAN: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state.

(a) the number of residential houses proposed to be constructed for Harijans, Tribals and Backward classes in the State of Kerala during Fifth Five Year Plan; and

(b) whether the targets set up for this purpose in the Fourth Plan have been achieved in full and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) and (b). Again a target of 1000 houses for Scheduled Castes and 533 for Scheduled Tribes the achievements during the IV plan were 863 houses and 314 houses respectively. The reasons for shortfall in the IV Plan and the targets for construction in the V plan are being ascertained from the State Government.

**Under-utilisation in Industries due to Technological Inadequacy**

\*641. DR. RANEN SEN:  
SHRI Y. ESWARA REDDY:

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

(a) whether the inadequacy of the technological base was one of the main reasons for under-utilisation of the engineering industries both in private and public sector; and

(b) the action Government propose to take to improve the technological base?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM): (a) and (b). The technological base of the engineering industries in India has been generally adequate. Whenever efficiencies are noticed, these are filled, among other things by allowing entrepreneurs and engineering units to collaborate with firms of repute abroad and by inducing them to undertake suitable research, design and development projects

**Indo-Soviet Satellite Project**

\*642 SHRI P. GANGADEB:  
SHRI N. SHIVAPPA:

Will the Minister of SPACE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Soviet team visited India in January, 1974 to coordinate the work of the two countries on the satellite project;

(b) if so, whether two stations are proposed to be set up for collecting data from the Indian satellite; and

(c) if so, the main features thereof?

**THE PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY, MINISTER OF ELECTRONICS AND MINISTER OF SPACE (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI):** (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) Two stations will be set up, one at Sriharikota and the other near Moscow, for receiving data from the Indian Scientific Satellite. The equipment and personnel at the Sriharikota station will be entirely Indian. The station near Moscow is being set up by the USSR Academy of Sciences, but the tape-recorder for the station will be provided by India in order to have exactly the same format for data recording as at Sriharikota. The telecommand facilities at both the stations will be fabricated by India and all commands will be by Indian personnel.

**Setting up of a Commission to Study the Problem of Minorities as suggested in All India Muslim Majlis Mushwarat Conference**

\*642. **SHRI B. S. BHAURA:** Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether All India Muslim Majlis Mushwarat Conference has suggested the setting up of a commission to study the problems faced by the minorities and to recommend measures for redress of their grievances; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA):** (a) Government have seen a news item about the resolution reported to have been adopted on the subject by the All India Muslim Majlis Mushwarat Conference held in Delhi in March, 1974.

(b) A Special Officer has been appointed under Article 350-B of the Constitution to investigate all matters relating to the safeguards provided for linguistic minorities under the Constitution. There is no proposal for appointing any other statutory authority. Apart from legal and other remedies available to all for getting their constitutional rights enforced, a Division has been created in the Ministry of Home Affairs specifically to deal with the problems of all minorities.

#### **Enquiry into Affairs of Gujarat Khadi Board**

\*644 **SHRI P. M. MEHTA** Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Crime Prevention Society of Gujarat has urged the Union Government to probe into affairs of Gujarat Khadi Board;

(b) if so, whether they have submitted memorandum to the Governor alleging corruption prevalent in the Gujarat Khadi Board; and

(c) if so, the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

**THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM):** (a) Yes, Sir. A petition containing some allegations was received by the Government of India.

(b) Government have no information of any such memorandum having been submitted to the Governor of Gujarat.

(c) The action to be taken will be decided in the light of the report that the State Government would make on the petition received by the Government of India and which has been sent to the State Government for enquiry.