

obligation have been imposed while issuing C.O.B. licences to foreign firms during the last three years;

(b) if so, the reasons for giving the concessions to foreign firms,

(c) whether foreign firms have taken undue advantage of these concessions by expanding their capacities considerably, and

(d) the measures Government propose to take to undo the harm done to the Indian sector of industry ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM): (a) to (d). Carrying on business (COB) licences are issued to those undertakings which had set up manufacturing capacities or taken effective steps for their establishment during a period of exemption from industrial licensing. As the grant of COB licence amounts to the recognition of an existing capacity, conditions regarding dilution of foreign holding and export obligation are not imposed in such cases unless there are special circumstances. This policy is followed in respect of all concerns. Therefore, there is no question of giving any concessions to foreign firms in this regard or of their taking any undue advantage.

Under the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act of 1973, all companies having a foreign equity of more than 40% are required to seek approval for continuance of their activities. This will provide Government an opportunity to review the working of these companies with reference to the contribution that these companies are making to the economy.

पिछड़े क्षेत्रों का विकास

* 478. श्री जगन्नाथ राव जोशी : क्या औद्योगिक विकास मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या पिछड़े क्षेत्रों के विकास के प्रश्न पर विचार करने के लिये एक समिति बनाई गई है ;

(ख) उसकी सिफारिशों का विवरण क्या है ;

(ग) पिछड़े क्षेत्र विकास प्राधिकरण के गठन के बारे में क्या सिफारिश की गई है, और

(घ) इनमें से प्रत्येक सिफारिश के बारे में सरकार की क्या प्रतिक्रिया है ?

औद्योगिक विकास तथा विज्ञान और प्रौद्योगिकी मंत्री (श्री सी० सुब्रह्मण्यम) : (क) में (घ) अंतर्राज्यीय अमानताओं को कम करने की दृष्टि से पिछड़े क्षेत्रों के विकास के लिये नीति निर्धारित करने की दृष्टि से पिछड़े क्षेत्रों के विकास के लिये नीति निर्धारित करने पर विचार करने के लिये योजना आयोग में एक समिति का गठन किया गया है। एक क्षेत्रीय विकास अभिकरण की स्थापना करने के प्रस्ताव को भी इसके विचारार्थ भेजा गया है। समिति ने अभी तक अपनी सिफारिशों को अंतिम रूप नहीं दिया है।

SETTING UP OF A PLANT IN GUJARAT TO PRODUCE CALCIUM CARBIDE IN COLLABORATION WITH BULGARIA

* 479. SHRI FATESINGHRAO GAEKWAD: Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state .

(a) whether there is any proposal to set up a joint plant in Gujarat for the production of calcium carbide in collaboration with Bulgaria; and

(b) if so, the main features thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM): (a) and (b). Government have not received any proposal for setting up of a unit for manufacture of Calcium Carbide jointly in collaboration with Bulgaria.