

(b) the progress made so far in achieving the objectives of the sub-plan?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHARAN SINGH):

(a) The tribal sub-plan areas are to be covered by 155 Integrated Tribal Development Projects. The State Governments have submitted so far 121 Projects Reports, which have been discussed and approved by the Government of India, subject to certain observations.

(b) With the implementation of the new programme, the level of investment in the tribal areas from State Plans is being substantially stepped up from about 170 crores in 1976-77 to 259 crores in 1977-78. The Special Central Assistance this year will be Rs. 55 crores as against Rs. 40 crores in the previous year. The State Governments have been requested to undertake a detailed review of physical achievements in the first three years of the Plan.

Setting up of Nuclear Power Plan in West Bengal

*457. SHRI SAMAR GUHA: Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the question of setting up of a Nuclear Power Plant in the coastal area of West Bengal was under consideration of the Atomic Energy Commission for the last few years;

(b) whether views regarding the desirability of setting up of such a nuclear power plant were exchanged between the State Government and the Atomic Energy Commission on several occasions;

(c) if so, points of agreement and divergence emerged out of such dialogues;

(d) whether the proposed power plant will considerably meet the demands of power supplies of Orissa and Bihar as well; and

(e) the time by which Government propose to take final decision about it?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI MORARJI DESAI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (e) During the discussions held in November, 1974 with West Bengal State Planning Board on the question of setting up a nuclear power plant in the Eastern Region, the Board was advised to conduct a detailed study to determine the most desirable and optimal mix of thermal, hydro and nuclear power to cater to the demands of the region over a specified time period in the context of the overall regional and national energy policy and to approach the Ministry of Energy, in case the study revealed that a nuclear power station was economically viable in the Eastern Region. Further developments are awaited.

(d) Does not arise.

Implementation of Recommendations of Commission for Backward Classes.

*458. DR. VASANT KUMAR PANDIT: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the recommendation of the Commission for Backward Classes, set up in 1956 and on which a sum of Rs. 5 lakhs was spent were not implemented by Government; and

(b) whether in view of the worse economic, social and political condition of these communities as compared to the Scheduled Castes, Government propose to implement those recommendations now for upliftment of these people?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI CHARAN SINGH): (a) and (b). In accordance with the provision contained in article 340(3) of the Constitution, the report of the Backward Classes Commission together with a memorandum explaining the action taken thereon was:

laid on the Table of the House on the 3rd September, 1956. The Government have now taken a decision to set up a Civil Rights Commission which, among other things, will look after the safeguards for the Backward Classes.

Manufacture of Electronic Watches

*459. SHRI NIHAR LASKAR:
SHRI K. LAKKAPPA:

Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had issued industrial licences to more than 10 parties for manufacturing electronic watches during the last 16 months and out of which only one is operating;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the action proposed to be taken in this regard; and

(d) whether Government are also losing export opportunities due to some restrictions?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI MORARJI DESAI): (a) to (c). In the last 16 months, i.e. from March 1976 to June 1977, 5 approvals have been given in the small scale sector and one letter of intent to a party in the organised sector for the manufacture of electronic watches, all on a 100 per cent export basis. Application for import licences for raw materials have been received from only one of these 6 units and that application has been recommended, in December 1976, for issue of import licence. The party is in the process of setting up production.

(d) No, Sir.

Vacancies in Cochin Dock

*460. SHRI K. A. RAJAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that fifty per cent of the Registered

workers' posts have fallen vacant in the Cochin Dock;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) reasons for these vacancies not being filled up?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI MORARJI DESAI): (a) and (b). As against the original strength of 2127 registered workers under the Cochin Dock Labour Board, the strength as on 1-6-1977 was 1018.

(c) Original strength of workers had become surplus to actual requirements due to reduction in the availability of employment in the Dock.

Import of Tugs

*462. SHRI P. K. KODIYAN: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether some of the major port trusts have decided in favour of importing tugs when there is adequate capacity in the existing shipyards in the country to manufacture tugs required by major ports;

(b) if so, what prompted the major port trusts to import tugs instead of getting them manufactured indigenously; and

(c) what is Government's reaction?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI MORARJI DESAI): (a) to (c). In the last ten years, a total of 27 tugs have been ordered for the 10 Major Ports in India i.e. 8 Port Trusts and 2 major ports of New Mangalore and New Tuticorin run by the Government. Of these, only 2 second-hand tugs, one each for Madras and Visakhapatnam were imported in 1970 in view of the immediate necessity of providing tug power at these Ports