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tion to independently collect information necessary to find out the implementation of constitutional safeguards for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and welfare schemes for these back ward classes: and

(d) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND IN DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE (DR. SHRIMATI PHULRENU GUHA): (a) and (b). In consultation with the Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, it was decided that he should be entrusted only with the functions envisaged under the Constitution and should be relieved of the development work which is properly the function of the Government. This decision was taken, as the Commissioner could not be expected to be an impartial critic of Government if he was at the same time to advise Government on development work. Accordingly the field offices formerly under the Commissioner were taken over under the Department of Social Welfare and reorganised into five zonal offices with effect from 15th June, 1967. As a result, 80 posts became surplus.

(c) and (d). No, Sir. The Commissioner's organisation at headquarters has been adequately strengthened for making an effective and independent investigation and assessment of Government policies and programmes.

खादी ग्रामोद्योग भवन, नई दिल्ली के प्रवन्धक के विरुद्ध केन्द्रीय जांच विभाग द्वारा जांच।

•1529. श्री प० ला० बारुपाल: क्या औद्योगिक विकास, आंतरिक ध्यापार तथा सम-वाय-कार्य मंत्री यह बताने की कुपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार को पता है और क्या उसे खादी ग्रामोद्योग भवन, नई दिल्ली, के प्रबन्धक के द्वारा भवन के धन की चोरी, गबन और दुरुपयोग के बारे में कोई शिकायतें प्राप्त हुई हैं और यदि हाँ, तो क्या उनके मंत्रालय द्वारा जांच कराई जा रही है अथवा जांच कार्य केन्द्रीय जांच विभाग को सौपने का विचार है; और

(ख) यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण है?

औद्योगिक विकास, आंतरिक व्यापार तथा समवाय-कार्य मन्त्री (श्री फलरुद्दीन अली अहमद) : (क) और (ख). खादी और ग्रामोद्योग आयोग ने सूचित किया है उन्हें भवन सम्बन्धी कुछ शिकायतें प्राप्त हुई है और उनकी जांच की जा रही है।

New All India Political Party

*1530. SHRI MUHAMMAD SHERIFF: Will the Minister of LAW AND SOCIAL WELFARE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether it is a fact that a new All-India Political Party, called the Bharatiya Christian Democratic Party has been formed in the country;
- (b) whether the said party has been recognised by Government; and
- (c) if so, the detailed aims and objects of the Party?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI GOVINDA MENON): (a) The Government is not aware of the formation of a new party called Bharatiya Christian Democratic Party.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Auction of Diamonds by National Mineral Development Corporation

8349. SHRI BABURAO PATEL: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of diamond auctions held since the inception of the National Mineral Development Corporation, the total revenue earned thereby and the places where the auctions were held;