

new industry is coming up in backward areas and also those industries which are already there, are going to be sick. In view of the policy of the Government of correcting the regional imbalance and also in view of the fact that those industries which are there in the backward districts are going to become sick, I would like to know whether the Government is prepared to reconsider the stoppage of subsidy given to industries in the backward districts, especially to the small-scale industries.

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO: Sir, what can our Ministry do when the Finance Ministry are not agreeable? They have not made enough provision for this in this year's Budget.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Sir, it is the responsibility of the Government. Let him at least say that he will take up the matter with the Finance Ministry...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: He has shown his inability. Without money he cannot do it.

SHRI J. VENGAL RAO: Sir, we have not only taken up, I have even argued with the Prime Minister and the Finance Minister. But the financial position is very critical...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: He cannot make the mare go without money.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Sir, I am coming from a backward district and the industries there are going to become sick...*(Interruptions)*

MR. SPEAKER: Mr. Sriballav Panigrahi.

SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI: Sir, the target fixed should be two-fold. One should be with regard to the quantity or the number and the other should be with regard to the production side or the achievement. So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whatever might be the numerical target in that sector, how it compare with the target on

the production side. Is there any target fixed in respect of production and, if so, what has been the achievement? The Report is there but our experience as members of the District Industries Centre, etc. is that in terms of production, there are many small-scale units which become sick soon after they are set up. What does the Government propose to do about this? There is no proper follow-up action taken by any agency with regard to providing technical know-how and also giving them necessary market support. How does the Minister react to it?

SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM: Sir, the Small Industries Service Institutes guide the entrepreneurs, render consultancy services, assist them in making them aware of the facilities and concessions offered by various organisations, and conduct training programmes for the technocrats. NSIC is also doing the same thing and they are assisting in marketing also.

[Translation]

T.V. Serials

*583. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the widespread criticism against some of the T.V. serials which merely ape foreign serials neither suiting to the Indian genius nor conforming to the cherished values; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to review the implementation of their policy followed in regard to selection of the serials?

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) The Government is not aware of any such widespread criticism.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT: Mr. Speaker, Sir, T.V. serial such as 'Kakaji Kahin' which is currently being telecast, portray a character who charges brokerage in the names of officers and leaders; buys flats and other luxurious items etc. Such things are being depicted in present day serials. Therefore, I would like to know from the hon. Minister what specific directions are these serials providing to the society? Similarly, the morning transmission is very boring. In the afternoon transmission nothing is shown except recipes for pickles and jams. We can improve upon our T.V. programmes provided we introduce some qualitative change in them.

MR. SPEAKER: Do pickles and jams not add to the taste of food?

[English]

SHRIS. KRISHNA KUMAR: The hon. Member's observations are somewhat general in nature. But I can assure him that the Selection Committee for sponsored serials has been given very clear guidelines. They are supposed to select the programmes in such a manner as to promote, basic socio-cultural values, equal respect for all religions, rejection of violence, projection of the rich cultural and diversity of the country using the medium for the right kind of values, etc. It is not as if guidelines are not given. A very vigorous process of selection is done, reviews are made and only then the serials are selected. The question of how you respond to a particular serial varies from person to person. We are aware that there is scope for improvement of the programme. We shall continuously strive to achieve this end.

[Translation]

SHRI KAMLA PRASAD RAWAT: Hon. Speaker, Sir, as the hon. Minister has stated in his reply, it is true that people of

different ideologies live in our country. There are some serials which are not concerned with the society at large. For instance, serial 'Fouji' is all right for the defence personnel but what does the society as a whole gets out of it. As far as my knowledge goes and I have observed myself also that there is scope for further improvement. The officials concerned should be asked to select quality serials which could enlighten the masses and give new direction to the society. By doing so, we can bring about substantial improvement in our T.V. programmes. Serials devoted to communal harmony can work wonders and therefore, such T.V. serials should be encouraged.

[English]

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR: Sir, we have only one channel and we have to cater to the taste of different sections of population. The particular serial 'Fouji' has been extremely well-received especially by the members of the armed forces, retired soldiers and so on. It contributes to pride in our defence preparedness and national integration. The observation of the Member, that the serials do not contribute to social good is not correct at all. There have been serials like 'Hum Log' which focussed on the problems of middle-class society. There have been serials fighting the social evils. There have been serials on environment and wild life, informative and educative serials, serials like 'Amir Khusro', 'Mirza Ghalib' and so on which promote national integration and unity, not to speak of 'Ramayan', 'Mahabharat', 'Discovery of India', etc. which project the cultural, ethical and philosophical basis of our society. Sir, it is our continuous effort to improve the serials and promote the national ethos and promote nation-building through all our programmes.

SHRI SHANTARAM NAIK: Sir, I am one of those who like most of the serials which are telecast by the Doordarshan. They are very good. I would say that 80% of them are very good, except to say that on about 20% of them there can be difference of opinion.

[Translation]

MR. SPEAKER: Had it not been so, you would not have called them good.

[English]

SHRISHANTARAM NAIK: But on one aspect, I would like to state that earlier we had some serials which in fact, so to say, encouraged superstitious belief. There were some one or two serials and we had to protest in this House to stop those serials. Now, I would like to know whether the Government is having any proposal of TV serial before them which will promote eradication of superstitious belief. If the Government does not have any such proposal, I would like to know whether Government proposes to specially invite such serials so that superstitious belief which is there in the society is either eradicated or reduced to a great extent.

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR: When complaints about the particular serial were voiced in this House as also outside, we had taken note of the opinion and we stopped the programme to ensure that superstitious belief are not promoted through the medium. We have a very large number of serials being telecast and in the pipeline and I am sure that a large number of them *inter alia* militate against superstitious belief, promote rationale thinking, etc. I am not able to pinpoint any particular serial straightaway.

DR. DIGVIJAY SINH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I seek an assurance from the hon. Minister not only because it is a No. 1 problem of the country—population explosion—but also because the Minister himself is deeply committed to the subject. I feel that on the one hand the Governments wants to give no further incentive for promoting this programme of family planning and the only redeeming feature is more coverage by the media, and on the other hand despite the fact that you had this programme as a national programme, the oldest national programme in the world even today, even in 1987 the figure given on the floor of the

House is 2.12 per cent increase of population every year. So why can't more and more coverage be given through the media for this No. 1 problem of the country?

SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR: Sir, family planning oriented messages and programmes have been considerably increased in the last few months and years. The Family Planning Department has been given the highest priority. We are in continuous touch with them not only in respect of regular family planning programmes, but also auxiliary programmes of child and maternal health, and Sir, as hon. Members are aware these messages are being increasingly projected through our media including Doordarshan.

Carbide Factories

*585. SHRI E. AYYAPU REDDY†:
SHRI K. RAMACHANDRA
REDDY:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of carbide factories in the country and the number of such factories as have become sick and are lying idle, State-wise; and

(b) the efforts being made to revive these factories;

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) and (b). As statement is given below.

STATEMENT

(a) and (b). At present, there are eleven Calcium Carbide factories in the organised sector in the country. As per available information, the following three calcium carbide factories are presently lying closed:

(i) M/s. Andhra Pradesh Carbide Limited, Kurnool, Andhra Pradesh.