

addition to this, three public sector companies have established such facilities mainly for inhouse consumption. However, these facilities are yet to be put in regular continuous operation.

(c) This aspect can be considered as soon as the quality, quantity and price of the indigenous products meet the national requirement.

#### **Modification of Freight Initialisation Policy**

1214. SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Cotton Textile and the Chemicals and Pharmaceuticals industry of West Bengal are on the verge of extinction due to the Central Government's freight equalisation policy;

(b) whether the said policy is applicable only to the raw materials moving out of West Bengal like coal and iron and not for the incoming raw materials for the cotton, chemicals and pharmaceutical industries in West Bengal;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) whether Government propose to modify policy in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) to (d) It is difficult to attribute the development or decline of an industry in any particular State to freight equalisation.

The Freight Equalisation Policy was reviewed some time back by the National Transport Policy Committee (Pande Committee). The Committee expressed its views against extending the Freight Equalisation Scheme to other commodities and recommended that even the existing schemes of freight equalisation on industrial commodities like steel and cement be phased out. The Government have already accepted the recommendations made by this Committee, subject to subsidisation of transport to remote, inaccessible and isolated areas.

#### **Central investment in each State**

1215. SHRI DIPEN GHOSH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state whether Government propose to enhance the Central investment to those States where they are insignificant?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): Plan investment by the Centre covers a wide range of both infrastructural and social welfare services as well as investment in public sector projects and units. The former are decided on national requirements while the latter are decided on techno-economic and other considerations.

However, special category States have their Plan outlays financed in large measure by Central assistance as one of the methods of reducing regional disparities.

#### **Places to be linked with third level airline services**

1216. SHRI JAGADISH JANU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the places in the country proposed to be linked with third level airline services during the Sixth Five Year Plan period;

(b) what are the places in originally planned to be linked with third level airline services during the same period; and

(c) what are the steps taken so far to implement the original proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) The stations presently airlinked by Vayudoot are indicated in the attached Statement. There are no plans to add stations to the Vayudoot network in the remaining period of the Sixth Five Year Plan.

(b) Rourkela.

has been airlinked