

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) The details of the legislation relating to the development of small scale, cottage and village industries are still being worked out.

(c) Various measures for promoting the growth of small scale, village and cottage industries for which additional legislative support is not necessary are already being taken. The number of items reserved for production in the small scale sector is being reviewed and expanded from time to time. Steps for channeling additional credit to the small scale sector are being taken. Marketing support through greater purchase preference in the Government Purchase Programme is also under consideration. District Industries Centres (D. I. Cs.) are being set up all over the country as major instruments of administrative decentralisation and rural industrial development. The number of D. I. Cs. is being progressively increased to cover the entire country.

News Item under the caption "Abdullah Ready for partition of States"

328. SHRI GHOUSE MOHIUDDIN SHEIKH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in the 'Indian Express' on the 21st March, 1979 under the caption "Abdullah ready for partition of the States"; and

(b) if so, what is the reaction of the Central Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI DHANIK LAL MANDAL): (a) Yes, Sir. The news item referred to however, carries the caption "Abdullah ready for partition of State".

(b) The Chief Minister had, while speaking in the State Legislative Assembly on the 21st March, 1979, re-

futed the allegation that he wanted a division of the State of Jammu and Kashmir.

The Government are opposed to, and disapprove of, any suggestion or move towards the division of the State on regional considerations.

Charging of Commission by Policemen at Delhi Liquor Shops

329. SHRI SHRIKANT VERMA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the policemen on duty at the local liquor shops run by the Delhi Small Industries Development Corporation and the Delhi Tourism Development Corporation demand their commission from the shopkeepers; and

(b) if so, what remedial steps Government have taken to stop this malpractice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. D. PATIL): (a) and (b) The position is being ascertained and facts will be laid on the Table of the House.

Working Group on Population Policy

330. SHRI N. P. CHENGALRAYA NAIDU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the working group of the Planning Commission on population policy has in its interim report suggested priority for women's health and education and adult literacy;

(b) if so, what are the other suggestions contained in the report; and

(c) by when a final decision for implementation of the recommendation is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI FAZLUR RAHMAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The major recommendations are given in the Annexure. [See Appendix CIX, Annexure No. 15] The recommendations will be taken note of while finalising the Draft Five Year Plan 1978—83.

Stoppage of allotment of mutton tallow to the Government Soap Factory Bangalore

331. SHRI MULKA GOVINDA REDDY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have stopped the allotment of mutton tallow, the essential ingredient in the manufacture of soaps, to the Government Soap Factory Bangalore; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons for the stoppage and whether Government are aware that the stoppage of supply of mutton tallow is to adversely affect production in the factory?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV): (a) and (b) The policy is that units in the organised sector who do not have hydrogenation facilities should set up such facilities at the earliest. Pending establishment of such facilities, requests for import of mutton tallow are being considered by Government.

The Government Soap Factory, Bangalore, is a unit without hydrogenation facilities and it has been asked to establish such facilities at the earliest. Ad-hoc import allocations of mutton tallow were made to this unit till 1977. For the licensing period 1978-79, the question of allocation of imported mutton tallow has been taken up with the Ministry of Commerce.

Pande Committee on National Transport Policy

332. SHRIMATI SUSHILA SHANKAR ADIVAREKAR:

SHRIMAT PRATIBHA SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Pande Committee on National Transport Policy has submitted an interim report;

(b) what are the reasons for not including the present Chairman of the Railway Board in the National Transport Policy Committee; and

(c) whether Government propose to lay a statement on the Table of the House giving the progress on the functioning of the Committee?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI FAZLUR RAHMAN): (a) Yes, Sir. The Committee has submitted one report, which is under consideration.

(b) National Transport Policy Committee is not an inter-Ministerial Committee. The members of this high level Committee have been selected on the basis of their personal experience and knowledge of different aspects of transport planning and co-ordination.

(c) The Committee's term has been extended to 31st December 1979. It is not the practice to report on the progress of work of Committees set up by the Planning Commission.

Cases examined by the Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices

333. SHRI R. R. MORARKA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total number of cases examined by the Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices during the last three years.

(b) what is the margin of profit/returns allowed in each case;