

was accepted by the State Governments at the meeting of the National Development Council held in the last week of February, 1979; and

(b) if so, what is the amount of Central assistance being given to different States and the amount of financial assistance proposed to be given during the financial year 1979-80?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI FAZLUR REHMAN): (a) Yes, Sir. The National Development Council in its meeting held on 24th and 25th February 1979 decided that, of the total Central assistance available for State Plans for the four years 1979—83, Rs. 1800 crores should be reserved for special category States, Rs. 600 crores for special problems of States and Rs. 4200 crores distributed among the 14 non-Special category States, on the basis of the various criteria laid down in the Gadgil formula, except the one relating to special problems. Besides, it was decided that an amount of Rs. 2000 crores to be released during 1979—83 by certain modifications in the Centrally sponsored schemes should be distributed among the 14 non-Special Category States on the basis of IATP (Income Adjusted Total Population), i.e., the inverse of per capita State's income multiplied by population. Further, additional Central assistance is being given for hill and tribal areas, the programme of the North Eastern Council and externally-aided schemes.

(b) The allocation of Central assistance to different States for 1979—80 and the remaining 3 years of the Five Year Plan 1979—83 has not yet been finalised.

Removal of Poverty in the Country

779. SHRI CHADALA VADAVENKATARA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have proposed schemes to launch campaign on 426 RS—3.

war footing for removal of poverty in the country; and

(b) if so, what are the details of the schemes for the purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI FAZLUR REHMAN): (a) and (b). It is true that in spite of many significant achievements since the First Five year Plan was launched in 1951, the progress towards achieving the country's basic goals of removal of poverty and unemployment has been disappointing. The Planning Commission, after a review of the State of development, decided to launch a new Five Year Plan in 1978-79, which outlined an appropriate strategy for the achievement of these goals within a fixed time-frame. The Draft Plan 1978—83 sets out a strategy for the elimination of distribution and the substantial reduction of poverty within a decade. The Plan accords the highest priority to agriculture and allied sectors, irrigation, and village and cottage industries which have the greatest capacity to absorb surplus labour. An expanded Minimum Needs Programme will ensure that the living standards of the poor can be directly supplemented by the provision of certain basic services and amenities. The Plan also provides for a package of redistributive measures.

Loss caused by strikes in jute industry -

780 SHRI CHADALA VADAVENKATARA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the amount of loss caused by recent strikes in jute industry;

(b) whether it is a fact that countries like China and Bangladesh have partially captured the foreign markets in jute as a result of the strike; and

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take to put an end to such strikes in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV): (a) Loss of production due to strike in Jute Industry is estimated at 1.29 lakh tonnes valued at about Rs. 69.81 crores,

(b) No specific report to this effect has come to the notice of the Government.

(c) The Industrial Relations Machinery, both at the Centre and in the States, continues to make efforts to minimise work-stoppages, through informal mediation, conciliation, adjudication or arbitration as necessary, under the existing statutory provisions and voluntary arrangements.

Model schemes for upliftment of Harijans

781. SHRI CHADALAVADA VENKATARAM Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have asked the State Governments to prepare and implement a model scheme for the upliftment of Harijans; and

(b) if so, what are the names of the States which have taken initiative and have shown interest in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI DHANIK LAL MANDAL): -(a) Central Govt, have not asked the State Governments to prepare and implement any model scheme or the development of Harijans. However, guidelines were issued to State Governments by the Planning Commission and the Ministry of Home Affairs to identify schemes in different sectors, which can directly benefit Scheduled Castes, and quantify in financial and physical terms the targets from each the schemes under general sectors to form Special Component Plans for the Scheduled

The intention is to secure, by this mechanism adequate flow of funds from different sectors for the development of a significant proportion of the Scheduled Castes, especially their economic development, through programmes appropriate to the various main occupational categories of the Scheduled Castes like agricultural labourers, leather workers and other artisans, marginal and small farmers, and urban decentralised labourers, so as to help them cross the poverty line.

(b) States of Andhra Pradesh, Gujarat, Haryana Himachal Pradesh, Karnataka, Kerala, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Manipur, Punjab, Rajasthan, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal and Union Territory of Pondicherry have made a beginning in preparing a Special Component Plan for the Scheduled Castes. The States of Assam, Bihar, Jammu and Kashmir, Orissa and Union Territory of Delhi are also taking steps to prepare a Special Component Plan for the Scheduled Castes.

Capacity utilization in Bharat Pumps and Compressors Limited

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

(a) whether it is a fact that the capacity utilization in the factories of the Bharat Pumps and Compressors Limited for production of pumps and compressors as below 10 per cent during the last five years;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for the same; and

(c) what steps Government propose to take to improve its capacity utilization?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (KUMARI ABHA MAITI): (a) The capacity utilization at Bharat Pumps and Compressors has always exceeded 10 per cent from 1974-75 when commercial production was commenced