

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. D. PATIL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Conduct Rules governing Central Government employees do not permit them to be members of any political organisation.

Growth rate of national income

1161. SHRI KISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a difference in the growth rate of the national income during the years 1978-79 and 1977-78;

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

(c) what steps Government have taken to raise the growth rate of the national income?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI FAZLUR REHMAN): (a) and (b) According to the estimates of national income for the year 1977-78 issued by the Central Statistical Organisation, the growth rate at 1970-71 prices during 1977-78 is 7.4 percent over the previous year. Estimates for 1978-79 are not yet available.

(c) Agriculture accounts for nearly half of national product. The main thrust of plan strategy is to develop irrigation, cropping patterns and agriculture practices which optimise the use of land and water resources. Adequate supplies of agricultural inputs, namely, fertilisers, pesticides, improved seeds and power will be ensured so that the projected growth of agricultural output is realised. The plan lays special emphasis on the need to formulate area plans. Public investment is proposed to be escalated substantially over the Sixth Plan period. The current industrial and trade policy also provides for stable growth in these sectors.

Expansion of public sector

1162. SHRIMATI KANAK MUKHERJEE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to stop further expansion of the public sector; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI FAZLUR REHMAN): (a) No, Sir. On the other hand, an expanding role is envisaged for the public sector in the socio-economic development of the country in the the Draft Five Year Plan 1978-83.

(b) Does not arise.

Instructions to Government Departments regarding forwarding of applications of Government employees

1163. SHRI BHAIKAB CHANDRA MAHANTI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry have issued instructions or orders to various Departments of Government for being liberal in the matter of forwarding of applications of Government servants seeking jobs in public sector undertakings and autonomous bodies in the interest of their career prospects; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. D. PATIL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Under the extant instructions, Government servants are allowed four opportunities in a year to apply in response to advertisements or notices of Government Departments [Public Sector Undertakings] Autonomous Bodies. Where Government servants apply for posts in response to UPSC advertisements, it