

assessment certificate of the units, but it is understood that supplies have since been resumed.

(c) Government have already taken steps to augment supplies of scarce categories of steel material through import of about 1 million tonnes of steel during the year.

Assam-Arunachal Pradesh boundary dispute

1539. SHRI RATAN TAMA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the boundary dispute between Assam and Arunachal Pradesh; and

(b) if so, what action Government have taken to solve the boundary problems between these two States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. D. PATIL): (a) and (b) The Government is aware of problems about the demarcation of boundary between Assam and Arunachal Pradesh. The Government is impressing upon the Chief Minister—Assam and Arunachal Pradesh to have demarcation of boundary on ground completed early through mutual consultations.

Subsidy for setting up industries in backward districts

1540. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to discontinue the 15 per cent Central subsidy available for setting up industries in backward districts of the country; and

(b) what are the recommendations of the high level committee appointed by Government to review the incentive schemes currently available to promote industrialisation of backward areas as envisaged in the Draft Sixth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV): (a) and (b) Government have set up a National Committee on Backward Areas under the Chairmanship of Shri B. Sivaraman, Member, Planning Commission with the following terms of reference:—

1. To examine the validity of the various concepts of backwardness underlying the definition in use for present policy purposes and recommend the criteria by which backward areas should be identified;

2. To review the working of;

(i) Existing plans for dealing with the general developmental problems of backward areas like Tribal sub-Plans, Plans for Hill Areas etc., and

(ii) Existing schemes for stimulating industrial development in backward areas such as the schemes for concessional finance, investment subsidy, transport subsidy, sales tax concessions, etc., similar schemes in the agricultural and allied fields like DPAP, and general measures for tackling the problems of poverty and unemployment with a view to find out their efficacy in the removal of backwardness; and

3. To recommend an appropriate strategy or strategies for effectively tackling the problem of backward areas, classify, if necessary, according to areas, causes or prescribed remedies.

The Committee is expected to submit its Final Report by 31st December, 1979.

A review on the continuation or modification of the present subsidy scheme would be taken after the recommendations of this Committee become available.

Meanwhile, it is ascertained from the Planning Commission that the question of continuing the present Central Subsidy Scheme during 1979-80 is