

previous year. During the first seven months of the financial year 1978-79, the rate of growth was higher at 7.5 per cent.

(b) A statement showing fall in production during the calendar year 1978 over 1977 in respect of selected industries for which data are available is attached. As against these industries, 130 industries showed an increase in production during the year. The reasons for short-fall in production in certain industries vary from item to item and include factors such as mechanical problems, shortage of inputs like explosives, availability of coal and transport, and industrial relations. [See Appendix CVIII, annexure No. 24].

(c) Government is constantly monitoring the performance of industries where output has shown a decline and remedial measures, wherever feasible have been taken. Despite a number of difficulties, the overall rate of growth in the industrial sector has been in line with the target of 7 or 8 per cent announced during the earlier part of the financial year.

213 [Transferred to the 5th March, 1979].

Constitution of international panel of scientists for nuclear safeguards

214. SHRI BUDDHA PRIYA MAURYA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the constitution of international panel of scientists to go into the question of nuclear safeguards has run into trouble;

(b) if so, what are the names of the countries proposing the constitution of such a panel and the nature of the difficulties in its setting up; and

(c) what is India's stand in the matter?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI MORARJI DESAI): (a) to (c) The proposal for an Ad-hoc Scientific Advisory Committee on Safeguards questions is presently under discussion and the details of its composition and functioning have yet to be finalised.

Annual Plan for West Bengal

215. SHRI SANKAR GHOSE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the size of the annual Plan for the current financial year for West Bengal as suggested by the State Government;

(b) what is the size of annual Plan that has been approved for that State; and

(c) whether there is any difference between the two; if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI FAZLUR REHMAN): (a) and (b) Against State's proposals of Rs. 400 crores, Planning Commission agreed to an outlay of Rs 371.40 crores for the current financial year (1978-79).

(c) State Plan outlays are worked out on the basis of State's own resources and the Central assistance allocated according to the agreed formula.

Punishment for taxi and auto rickshaw drivers for refusing to carry passengers

216. SHRI BISHAMBHAR NATH PANDE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the maximum punishment provided under the Motor Vehicles Act for such auto rickshaw and Taxi drivers in Delhi who refuse to carry passengers to their destination;

(b) how many cases of such nature are pending in Delhi courts at present;