

(a) whether it is a fact that I.N.A. Museum at Moirang in Manipur is not being properly looked after for want of funds and proper management; and

(b) whether Government propose to take over this museum as a national museum and make arrangements to preserve the documents there as part of National Archives?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI DHANIK LAL MANDAL): (a) and (b) The requisite information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Offices of Staff Selection Commission at Gauhati and Raipur

2031. SHRI AJIT KUMAR SHARMA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the regional offices of the Staff Selection Commission under his Ministry have been set up at Gauhati and Raipur; and

(b) if so, when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. D. PATIL): (a) and (b) Formal Government orders regarding the setting up of two sub-regional offices of the Staff Selection Commission—one at Raipur in Madhya Pradesh and the other in the North-eastern region of India—have been issued only recently. Steps are now being taken by the Commission to find suitable personnel for the two offices, buildings etc. to set up these offices early.

Difficulties experienced by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission

2032. SHRI SITARAM KESRI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the difficulties being experienced by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission in the rural areas on account of marketing by the organised sector;

(b) whether Government have made any assessment with regard to the adequacy or otherwise of the present marketing network of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission to meet the marketing problems in the country; and

(c) if so, what remedial steps Government have taken or propose to take with a view to promoting the growth of village industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Government constituted a Working Group on Khadi and Village Industries in October, 1977; its terms of reference *inter-alia* included study and recommendations in respect of marketing of Khadi and Village Industries products. The Working Group has since submitted its Report and recommendations made in the Report will be implemented as soon as decisions are taken thereon. A study has been entrusted to the National Productivity Council to ascertain the present practices in marketing of the products of the rural/cottage industries sector jointly with Handicraft and Handloom Board and the Khadi and Village Industries Commission. Similarly, Industrial Development Service has been entrusted to undertake a study and to make recommendations for strengthening the marketing organisations for the Khadi and Village Industries products.

State Harijan Welfare Projects

2033. SHRI BISHAMBHAR NATH PANDE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to create Rs. 500 crore Central Fund for Harijan Welfare Projects initiated by State Governments;

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

(c) how many State Welfare Projects for Harijans exist at present in the country, State-wise; and

(d) what are their functions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI DHANIK LAL MANDAL):

(a) and (b). The working Group on Scheduled Castes and Other Backward Classes during the Medium Term Plan 1978—83 constituted under the Chairmanship of Shri Dhanik Lal Mandal, Minister in the Ministry of Home Affairs had, in its report, recommended a Special Central Assistance of Rs. 500 crores for programmes for the Scheduled Castes, on lines similar to the Special Central Assistance for Tribal Areas. This is under examination.

(c) and (d). There is no information as to the number of welfare projects for Harijans in the States. However, programmes with family-oriented schemes like IRD, SFDA, MFALDAs, Operation Flood II, Cottage and Village Industries programmes can substantially benefit the Scheduled Castes. Other programmes like Food for Work, employment guarantee schemes, employment affirmation programmes can also help them. An important development is the setting up of Scheduled Castes Development Corporations in several States.

Condition of Harijans in the country

2034. SHRI BISHAMBHAR NATH PANDE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state: the extent to which the financial condition of the Harijans in the country has improved during the last decade?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI DHANIK LAL MANDAL): The assessment of the improvements in the financial conditions of the Harijans in the country would require extensive and detailed studies. No information on this scale and magnitude is available. The Planning Commission in the Draft Five Year Plan 1978—83, has made references to the financial conditions of Harijans, like the following:—

“The prevalence of poverty and inequality, virtually unchanged over

the years, can be seen most clearly in the conditions of life of the two disadvantaged groups in our society, the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes..... So far they have been only marginally involved in the process of development... Scheduled Castes generally constitute a substantial fraction of the population below the poverty line. They have few assets and are generally dependent on share-cropping or agricultural labour.”

Unsolved cases of murder and rape

2035. SHRI BISHAMBHAR NATH PANDE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of cases of murder and rape reported in the Union Territories during 1978, which have been solved so far; and

(b) the number out of those which are yet to be solved?

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

Entrepreneurs to set up mini cement plants

2036. SHRI BISHAMBHAR NATH PANDE: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of entrepreneurs who have come forward to set up mini cement plants in the country;

(b) whether the Cement Corporation of India also propose to set up such plants; and

(c) if the answers to parts (a) and (b) above be in the affirmative, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV): (a) Besides one Industrial Licence and 5 Letters of Intent,