

(b) if so, what are the advantages for such investment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV): (a) and (b) It is the policy of the Government that in appropriate cases, the Central and State Governments may take equity participation either directly or through their corporations with private parties with the objective of reducing the concentration of economic power in the hands of a few.

Raw material policy of Government

2024. SHRI GHOUSE MOHIUDDIN SHEIKH: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration regarding raw material policy under which no cuts will be imposed in the small sector in the supply of scarce inputs; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV): (a) and (b) Government are always endeavouring to meet the genuine requirements of small scale industries in full of all raw material including scarce category items. Government are trying further to streamline the procedure of allocation and distribution of raw material to the small scale sector in order to see that the specific requirements of the small scale sector are met in time.

Demand for statehood for Arunachal Pradesh

2025. SHRI Ng. TOMPOCK SINGH: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the people and Government of Arunachal Pradesh have demanded full statehood for their territory; and

(b) if so, what is the cause of delay in taking a final decision in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI DHANIK LAL MANDAL): (a) A memorandum signed, among others, by the Chief Minister and other Ministers of the Union territory of Arunachal Pradesh urging grant of statehood to the Union territory was submitted to the Prime Minister in 1977. A copy of the Resolution adopted by the Legislative Assembly in this regard formed an enclosure to the memorandum.

(b) The matter has to be viewed in the context of the wider question of reorganisation of States and, as has already been made clear in the House, the Government do not consider the present to be opportune time to consider this question.

Projects sanctioned under salt cess funds

2026. PROF. RAMLAL PARIKH: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) what is the State-wise production of salt during the last three years;

(b) what are the reasons for which the Salt Commissioner's office has not been situated in Gujarat where large quantity of salt is produced; and

(c) what is the unspent amount of salt cess funds during last three years, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (KUMARI ABHA MAITI): (a) A Statement is attached.

(b) The office of Salt Commissioner was shifted from Delhi to Jaipur in 1958 in pursuance of the policy to disperse Central Government offices outside Delhi. One of the considerations for locating the office of Salt Commissioner in Jaipur was its proximity to Delhi. The proposal of the State Government of Gujarat for