

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,