

plant resources have been discussed. A training course in Biofuels, Bioproduktivty and Photosynthesis is being organised at Madurai in collaboration with United Nations Environment Programme.

Ex-ICS officer as Chairman of the Rural Electrification Corporation

1042. SHRI GIAN CHAND TOTU:

DR. LOKESH CHANDRA:

SHRI KALP NATH RAI:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Rural Electrification Corporation is run by a 72 year ex-ICS officer as its Chairman; and

(b) what is the rent paid by the Corporation for his residence?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI P. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Dr. B. Venkatappiah, formerly of the Indian Civil Service is the Chairman of the Corporation.

(b) The Corporation has provided Dr. B. Venkatappiah with office-cum-residence accommodation. The rent of the residential portion of the building is Rs. 1556 per month.

Launching of India's second satellite

1043. DR LOKESH CHANDRA:

SHRI KALP NATH RAI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India's second satellite is to be launched during this month; and

(b) whether essential items for the satellite payload have been received in time?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI (MORARJI DESAI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Almost all essential items for the Satellite Payload have now been received.

Comprehensive Bill for the employees of the Film Industry

1044. SHRI KALP NATH RAI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state the steps Government have taken to introduce a comprehensive Bill for the employees in the film industry including those who are termed as casual, daily-rated, temporary and contractual?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI LAL K. ADVANI): Legislation for the protection of Service conditions of film workers has been under consideration for quite some time. After consultation with the various interests concerned, a scheme has been drawn up and it is proposed to introduce necessary legislation shortly.

1045. [Transferred to the 15th December, 1978]

Minister's tours during October 1978

1046. SHRI SATCHIDANANDA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of days for which the Union Minister of Industry was out of Delhi in October, 1978;

(b) the amount spent on his T.A./D.A. during the last one year for his tours within India and abroad, separately; and

(c) whether it is a fact that the work of the Ministry of Industry suffered owing to his absence from Headquarters for a long time in October, 1978?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI MORARJI DESAI): (a) Twenty seven days.

(b) (i) Expenditure on tours within India. Rs. 53,023.10.

(ii) Expenditure on tours abroad Rs. 62,686.25 (includes a sum of Rs. 4872.26 incurred in foreign currency).

(c) No, Sir. Adequate arrangements were made for attending to the work of the Ministry of Industry during the Minister's absence from Headquarters.

Report of the high power committee to review progress in the recruitment of persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes

1047. SHRI KALP NATH RAI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a high-power committee was appointed to review the progress in recruitment of persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes to posts under the Central Government and the public sector undertakings;

(b) whether the committee has submitted its report to Government; and

(c) if so, what are the recommendations made by the Committee?

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

(a) the High Power Committee to review the performance in the matter of recruitment of Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes in the services/posts in or under the Government, Union Territories and Public Undertakings under the control of the Government has been reconstituted in August, 1978.

(b) and (c) The Committee is not required to submit any report; it meets periodically to review the progress of representation of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and recommend suitable measures. Some of the important recommendations made by the High Power Committee in its meeting held on 20th October, 1978 related to the following:—

(1) A time bound phased programme should be drawn so that the backlog in the recruitment of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled

Tribes in the services under the Central Government and Public Sector Undertakings is liquidated. A Committee of Senior Secretaries should be set up to go into the entire question of inadequate representation of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the various services and grades under the Government and suggest ways and means for making up the deficiency in their representation.

(2) Reservation of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes should also be made in the promotion quota in the I.A.S.

(3) The question of making reservation for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in the Judicial and Higher Judicial Services in those States and in the services under those High Courts where reservations have not yet been provided should be pursued further with the concerned State Governments and the Chief Justices of the High Courts.

(4) The scheme of setting up of Book Banks for SC/ST students in Medical and Engineering colleges should be finalised expeditiously

(5) It should be examined whether scholarships admissible to Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes students studying in non-professional courses could also be increased.

(6) The private sector establishments should be persuaded to adopt reservations for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes in services under them.

(7) Pre-examination Centre for more intensive training for I.A.S. etc. examination should be opened, in addition to Jabalpur, at Raipur (Madhya Pradesh) also, where facilities should be made available to both Scheduled Castes as well as Scheduled Tribes candidates.