

3. The pool is founded on the principle of being a self-financing activity. Broadly, each participating news agency is entitled to transmit and to distribute news items within the frame-work of the pool and can send daily an agreed wordage to one or more distributing agencies. All distributing news agencies will provide in their daily transmissions or newscasts a mutually agreed duration of time to be devoted to distribution of news received from other participants. Each news agency will endeavour, to the full extent of its possibilities to promote utilisation of the news and information carried on by the pool, through publications, radio and television stations using its services.]

Drawbacks in the central subsidy schemes for industrial development

*86. DR. Z. A. AHMAD :

SHRI LAKSHMANA MAHA-
PATRO :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to disburse about 10 crores of rupees during the current year as subsidy for industrial units being set up in backward areas;

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

(c) whether it is fact that an official committee detected some drawbacks in the implementation of the scheme; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof and what measures are being taken by Government to remedy the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI T. A. PAI) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The present budget allotment for the current year 1976-77 is Rs. 10 crores for disbursement as Subsidy for industrial units being set up in backward areas.

(c) Yes, Sir. An Official Committee had studied the subsidy scheme.

(d) A summary of the main recommendations made in the Report of the Committee headed by Sh. P. C. Nayak formerly Secretary (Industries) Govt. of Maharashtra is enclosed. These recommendations are under examination of Govt. [See Appendix XCVII, Annexure No. 25]

Investment by Indians settled abroad

*87. SHRI N. K. BHATT :

SHRI JAGDISH JOSHI :

SHRI IBRAHIM KALANIYA :

SHRI KHURSHED ALAM

KHAN :

SHRIMATI LAKSHMI KUMARI
CHUNDAWAT :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have set up a special cell to expeditiously deal with proposals received from Indians settled abroad for investment in the country;

(b) what is the number of such proposals received and whether requests were also received for investment in heavy and small scale industries; and

(c) how far the additional concessions announced by Government have induced Indians settled abroad for investment in the country ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI B. P. MAURYA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Two; both related to setting up of units in the small scale sector for some items of industrial machinery and production of Mushrooms.

(c) The recent announcement has aroused considerable interest among non-resident Indians and a good response is expected.

Non-implementation of supply of Uranium for Tarapur Atomic Plant by U.S.A.

*88. SHRI PATTIAM RAJAN :

SHRI P. K. KUNJACHEN :

Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the time schedule for delivery of uranium has not been adhered to by U.S.A. causing hindrance in the functioning of Tarapur Atomic Power Plant; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken in the matter ?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI) : (a) and (b) Licence for export of enriched uranium from U.S.A. for the Tarapur Atomic Power Station (TAPS) had been held up as a result of

petitions filed with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission of that country seeking to block the export. The Government of India are in constant touch with the U.S. State Department which as per normal diplomatic practice is presenting India's views before the NRC. As a result of these efforts a part consignment of enriched uranium has been received on July 23, 1976. No hindrance in the functioning of TAPS is apprehended unless release of the remaining quantity is delayed beyond the end of 1976.

Revised Budget Plan Outlay for Tribal Areas

*89. SHRI R. NARASIMHA REDDY :
SHRI B. RACHAIAH :
SHRIMATI SUMITRA G. KULKARNI :

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state :

(a) what is the revised Budget Plan outlay for Tribal areas; and

(b) what steps are being taken in respect of sub-plan for the tribals of Gujarat ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI SANKAR GHOSE) : (a) In 1976-77, Rs. 40 crores has been provided as special central assistance to States/Union Territories for development programmes in the tribal sub-plan areas. Out of this, a sum of Rs. 3.25 crores has been allocated for Gujarat sub-plan area. This will be in addition to the Rs. 16 crores provided in the State Plan for the sub-plan area.

(b) The sub-plan aims at the integrated development of tribal areas. Programmes relating to agriculture, minor irrigation, co-operation, horticulture, development of forest based industries and village industries are being given the highest priority in the sub-plan.

Rise in prices of consumer goods

*90. SHRI GIAN CHAND TOTU :
SHRI GANESH LAL MALI :
SHRI LEONARD SOLOMAN SARING :
SHRI SYED NIZAM-UD-DIN :
SHRI NARASINGH PRASAD NANDA :

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION be pleased to state:

(a) what are the reasons for an upward trend in the prices of consumers goods, especially those of agricultural products, during the last two months;

(b) what has been the percentage of increase in this prices during the above period; and

(c) what action is being taken by Government to check the rise in prices of essential commodities ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES AND COOPERATION (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : (a) and (b) During the last two months the prices of food articles as a group have risen by about 5 per cent. Apart from seasonal factors, the price rise was essentially due to speculative activities arising in the context of delay in the monsoon.

(c) State Governments have intensified their enforcement machinery to see that speculation and hoarding do not take place. To augment the supply of groundnut oil for direct consumption, it has been made obligatory on vanaspathi manufacturers to use imported oils to the extent of 50% in the manufacture of vanaspathi. The import of edible oils has been stepped up. The export of HPS groundnuts and potatoes has been banned. An additional quota of 20,000 tonnes of non-levy sugar has been released for August, 1976.

Super Thermal Power Station for Farakka

172. SHRI SANAT KUMAR RAHA :
Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have any plan to set up a super thermal power station at Farakka; and

(b) if so, by when the construction work will start ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (PROF. SIDHESHWAR PRASAD) : (a) and (b) The Central Government proposes to set up, in a phased manner, a large thermal station in the Northern, Eastern, Western and Southern Regions. The site proposed in the Eastern region is at Farakka. The start of the project would depend upon the availability of funds.