

of equipment and components for this plant was gone into, together with the need for Soviet assistance in building up exports of equipment and machinery manufactured in this plant to third countries. The Soviet side agreed to assist in this regard to the maximum extent and also to assist in the promotion of exports of products of other Soviet-aided heavy engineering units in this country.

SELECTION OF LESS DEVELOPED REGIONS THAT DEMAND SPECIAL ATTENTION

*14. SHRI (HITTA BASU : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, INTERNAL TRADE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the reply to the Unstarred Question No. 493, given in the Rajya Sabha on the 12th May, 1969 and state :

(a) the essential features of the report of the Working Group on the selection of less developed regions that demand special attention :

(b) whether the examination of the Report has since been completed ; and

(c) if not, the reasons for the delay ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, INTERNAL TRADE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED) : (a) The Report of the Working Group on 'Identification of Backward Areas' set up by the Planning Commission has already been placed on the Table of the House during the last session. The essential features of the Report are indicated in Chapter III thereof.

(b) and (c) No, Madam. The report submitted by the Working Group has been referred by the National Development Council to its Standing Committee for detailed consideration.

SMALL CAR

*15. SHRI S. K. VAISHAMPAYAN :

SARDAR HARCHARAN SINGH DUGAL :

SHRI SURAJ PRASAD :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, INTERNAL TRADE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to

to refer to the reply to Starred Question No. 15 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 28th April, 1969 and state :

(a) whether discussions with the Planning Commission on schemes for the manufacture of a small car have been completed ;

(b) if so, what is the final decision taken in this regard ; and

(c) if no decision has so far been taken, at what stage the matter stands at present and how much time is likely to be taken to finalise the same ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, INTERNAL TRADE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED) : (a) to (c) Discussions have been held with the Planning Commission and with the Ministry of Finance. No final decision has, however, been taken yet. It is expected that it will be possible to reach a decision early.

NEW INDUSTRIES IN PUNJAB

*16. SARDAR NARINDER SINGH BRAR: SHRI GURCHARAN SINGH:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, INTERNAL TRADE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number and nature of new industries started in Punjab during the last two years ;

(b) the new industries proposed to be started in the near future in that State in the Public and Private sectors ; and

(c) whether the Government of Punjab have requested the Union Government for the allotment of some heavy industries to Punjab, if so, the details thereof and reaction of Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, INTERNAL TRADE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI FAKHRUDDIN ALI AHMED) : (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(c) In February 1968, the Punjab