

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) No, Sir. It is expected to be presented by the end of 2002.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Regional imbalance

†1758. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the targets fixed for removing regional imbalance particularly in backward areas during the last five year plans and the details of achievements made in this regard;

(b) whether it is a fact that expected successes have not been met in this regard; and

(c) if not, the facts in this regard and details of the provisions being made to achieve success during the next five year plan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) The removal of regional disparities has been an inherent part of the planning process. The Central Government has been supplementing the efforts of the State Governments in this regard through weightage in the formula used for the distribution of Central Assistance; through Special Area Programmes such as the Hill Areas Development Programme, Border Area Development Programme, Tribal Sub-Plan, etc.; and through various poverty alleviation and employment generation schemes. However, despite these efforts, certain areas of the country continue to lag behind in the development process owing to historical—geographical factors, differences in resource endowment, etc.

(c) The Development and Reform Facility (Rashtriya Sam Vikas Yojana) has been initiated in the Tenth Plan in order to help in the reduction of regional imbalances through schemes which will address the problems of low agricultural productivity, unemployment and fill critical gaps in physical and social infrastructure. This scheme has three components: (i) Backward Districts Initiative which is being operated on a pilot basis in the current year covering 25 districts; (ii) Special Plan for Bihar; and (iii) Special Plan for the Kalahandi, Bolangir and Koraput (KBK) districts of Orissa.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.