

**Mr. Speaker:** The Scheduled Castes have castes, the Scheduled Tribes have no castes. In one case they are listed not on the ground of any religion, but only because they are tribes living in any particular area or areas. In the other case, they are listed on castes.

**Shri Thimmaiah:** Will the hon Home Minister give us an idea of the average number of people—Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes people—being converted every year? May I also know whether the Government have tried to find out the reason why these people are being converted?

**The Minister of Home Affairs (Pandit G. B. Pant):** We have not got the figures here with us. As for the reason I would imagine that those who want to be converted and those who are keen on converting others agree to the agreement.

**Shri B. S. Murthy:** Apart from the provision in the Constitution, has any enquiry been made whether any distinction is being made by the State Governments as between the Scheduled Tribes belonging to one religion or the other in the matter of giving help for their welfare?

**Pandit G. B. Pant:** The State Governments have been instructed to treat all members of the tribal regions, whether living in one part or in the other, on a uniform basis and not to make any sort of invidious distinction against any section.

#### Modernisation of Ordnance Factories

\*1105 **Shri Manabendra Shah:** Will the Minister of Defence be pleased to state whether any plan has been finalised for the investment of Rs 40 crores on the new projects as well as replacement-cum-modernisation of plant and machinery in ordnance factories?

**The Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Defence (Shri Fatesinghrao Gaekward):** The estimated amount

of Rs 40 crores is to cover expenditure on—

- (i) Replacement/modernisation of old and obsolete plant and machinery in the Ordnance Factories
- (ii) Modernisation/expansion of production capacity in the Ordnance Factories

A five year plan has been drawn up for phased replacement of old and worn out plant and machinery. Based on this, action has already been initiated to meet our immediate requirements.

As regards new projects, a number of proposals for modernisation/expansion of production capacity in the Ordnance Factories are in an advanced stage of finalisation.

**Shri Manabendra Shah:** Will the hon Minister lay on the Table of the House the proposals regarding the new projects?

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon Member wants to know whether a list of the new projects will be laid on the Table of the House.

**The Deputy Minister of Defence (Sardar Majithia):** That will be considered when they are finalised.

**Shri S. M. Banerjee:** May I know whether this modernisation scheme will also create avenues for more employment for skilled workers?

**Sardar Majithia:** I cannot answer that question at the moment. Certainly modernisation means more efficient working.

**Shri S. M. Banerjee rose—**

**Mr. Speaker:** The hon Deputy Minister is not in possession of the information, he may stop with that. He is afraid, the hon Member who puts the question is afraid that modernisation will mean throwing out of employment and therefore he wants to know whether it will increase the avenues of employment.