

SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ: Sir, on an issue like this we cannot adopt double standards. We will have to take one decision in respect of all the States in the matter of sharing the expenditure. As it is well-known, if we give more to one State the others will be justified in asking for more funds. So, a guideline, is already there and is followed over the years that in the parliamentary elections 50 per cent of the cost is borne by the States and 50 per cent by the Centre.

SHRI YAIMA SINGH YUMNAM: Mr. Speaker, it is a fact that the Government of Manipur have started issuing identity cards to the voters. May I know whether the Government is aware of the fact that those identity cards have again been collected by the insurgents or underground organisations? If the Government is aware of the fact, then what measures will the Government take for issuing duplicate identity cards or fresh identity cards? Although the hon. Minister has clarified that it is not under his purview, I would like to state that the students and other organisations have even called for a bandh on the Independence Day for the exclusion of foreigners from the voters' list. It will be helpful to the Government of Manipur if the hon. Prime Minister makes a statement that the foreigners will be excluded from the voter's list and identity cards will not be issued to them.

Sir, as you know in Manipur there has been influx of foreigners through Jiribam area and border areas along the border of Myanmar, Bangladesh and Pakistan. For the small non-viable States like Manipur and Sikkim, it will be burdensome to bear the expenditure even though the Central Government is prepared to bear 50 per cent of the expenditure. So, will it be possible for the

Central Government to meet 100 per cent expenditure in the case of such small States?

SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ: Sir, so far as Manipur is concerned, the total expenditure is estimated at Rs. 5.49 crore and the Government has agreed for 50 per cent share. With regard to the preparation of rolls and issue of identity cards both under the scheme and of the law, the Chief Electoral Officers of the States are charged with the duty to prepare these identity cards and all this. And they have clear statutory guidelines stipulating who has to be given this identity card and who has to be registered as a voter. We do not come into the picture either in the revision or preparation of rolls.

Foreign Investment in Backward Areas

*324. PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether any foreign investment has been made in the backward areas of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof vis-a-vis total foreign investment in the country so far;

(c) whether any guidelines exist in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF HEAVY INDUSTRY) (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) and (b). Foreign investment data, specific

to backward areas, is not centrally maintained.

(c) No, sir.

(d) Does not arise.

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: The Government is not maintaining the foreign investment data specifically relating to the backward areas. I would suggest that the Government should do so. It is not very difficult to do so.

After liberalisation, foreign investment in the country is increasing. Investments are also being made in the core sector and in infrastructure also, even though it is not up to our expectations. These are certain positive signs, positive results of the liberalisation. Sir, but, there is an area of concern for us, that is, most of these investments are being made in the developed areas or the urban areas. Even the investors from within the country are tending to avoid the backward areas. In the eighties, we had what was called 'Compensatory Backward Area Allowance'. That allowance is not being given today. Therefore, there is the possibility of regional imbalances being further increased.

In view of this, I would like to know whether the Government is conscious of this problem, and if so, what are the specific steps being taken to reduce the regional imbalances arising out of the attraction of the investments in the developed and urban areas.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I agree with the hon. Member that special attention should be paid towards the backward areas and the Government of India is endeavouring so.

For me backward areas means backward districts. I do not have district wise figures at this time. When all MPs showed their eagerness and desired requisite information on this issue, hon. Prime Minister took its notice. Thereafter we started to collect state-wise,datas. When we invested foreign capital in, we reviewed various aspects for those datas. All datas are being examined by an independent agency. It will provide information about the allocation of project. The report will take at least 6-7 months time. This is a lengthy process because datas have to be collected from all States. We have left the decision on entrepreneurs to decide themselves as to where they want to invest their money. But it has been found that it did not prove effective even while licences were being issued. The Government should interfere in it or the entrepreneurs to divert industries to backward areas. But it was found that they preferred to divert industries to only those places where they have maximum dependable infrastructural facilities.

The hon. Member has asked regarding the steps being taken by the Government in this regard. As he had also held this port-folio therefore, I would like to submit that the issue of industrialisation is mainly related to State Governments but after the implementation of new economic policy the Government is providing proper incentives and infrastructural facilities to entrepreneurs to promote industrialisation in backward areas. The Government has started these schemes mainly through Growth Centres Schemes, Tax Holiday and Transport subsidy which provides subsidy to various States. It functions as a supplement and thus we are trying for industrialisation. Various Governments provide varieties of incentives such as capital subsidy, sales tax exemption, power subsidy, allotment of land etc. from their side.

[English]

PROF. P.J. KURIEN: Sir, I agree with the hon. Minister but the point is that I have raised a very specific question. Today we are not giving licences. Licence raj is no more. We did not want that also. But even at the time of licence also, there was the backward area allowance. To some extent, some industries were diverted to backward areas through the mechanism of licensing and also some industrialists were directed to go to backward areas because there was 20 per cent of investment subsidy in those days. Both of these mechanism are not existing today. There is no mechanism by which we can divert investors to the backward areas. This is the problem which I am specifically raising. Therefore, there is a possibility of increasing regional imbalances. We all welcomed liberalisation. It has proved to be successful. The Hon. Minister has touched on the problem. The remedy which she herself said is infrastructure. Infrastructure is the most important thing. There were two schemes with the Government to develop infrastructure in the backward areas. They are the Growth Centre Scheme and Infrastructure Development Scheme. This was an alternative to the development subsidy. The growth centres were envisaged to bring investment to the backward area because growth centres will develop infrastructure in backward areas only.

The hon. Prime Minister himself in this House has said that the scheme will be implemented.

Then there was another scheme and that is the Infrastructural Development Scheme for small-scale Units. That was included in the SSI policy also. I read in some newspapers that the Growth Centre Scheme is being perhaps

abandoned and the infrastructure scheme is also not picking up.

I would like to know what is the policy of the Government on the growth centre scheme and the infrastructure development scheme and whether they have been abandoned. If not, what is the reason for the delay in implementing them and whether by the end of this Plan, the envisaged growth centres would be commissioned.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Growth Centre Scheme, which has been chalked out to provide infrastructural facilities to the States has not been abandoned. Keeping in view the importance of infrastructural facilities for industrialisation the Government of India had implemented the Growth Centre Scheme in 1988. This scheme is meant for providing the infrastructural facilities such as power, telecommunications and water etc. so that this scheme may be the pivotal point in the process of industrialisation. I agree with the hon. Member that this scheme is being delayed. It was planned to expend Rs. 30 crore on each centre and this expenditure was supposed to be met by the State Government, the Union Government and Indian Financial Institutions. But some hindrances were there. Due to shortage of resources at State and Union Government's level the pace of the progress of the Growth Centre Scheme retardated. The most of the States could not raise the fund of Rs. 10 crore per centre from the market as prescribed in the scheme. In some cases it was delayed due to the acquisition of land. Taking this into consideration we held meetings on various levels and invited the State Government also. It was discussed in the conference of Industry

Ministers. The cabinet secretary also held meeting. The concerned department continuously reviewed the progress. The work was started from September-October, 1993. We visited various States such as Gujarat, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh. The Minister of those States were called which had certain problems. There were certain practical problems. For example, there was financial crunch and lack of land in the North-East. A review Committee was set up therefore. The Chief Secretary of the Prime Minister's Office attended the Review Committee. The report of Review Committee is almost complete. The Secretary, I.D. called its meeting through All India Financial Institutes. He assured to provide funds through financial Institutes to those States whose progress was satisfactory. We are introducing certain flexibilities to overcome the departmental shortcoming. The report regarding the mode of the programmes likely to be implemented in the North East and Backward States is under the consideration of the Government. I hope action will be taken on it very soon.

[*English*]

SHRI E. AHAMED: Mr. Speaker, Sir, after, the Government has decided to do away with this investment subsidy eligible to the backward districts, the only help now is from the industrial growth centres. But the hon. Minister has stated in the House that the industrial growth centre is also not to the expected level. Ultimately, there is neither investment subsidy to the backward districts nor is there a progress made in the growth centres. I would like to ask the Minister whether the Government will consider to provide some sort of encouragement by way of investment subsidy or something for those industries which would like to

prefer it in the Centrally sponsored growth centre which is now under the consideration of the Government.

[*Translation*]

SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have already replied that the Union Government has launched three schemes. They are transport subsidy, growth centre and tax holiday. Moreover, the various State Governments also provide certain incentives and they also have their own package programmes.

SHRI BHERU LAL MEENA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to ask the hon. Minister and the hon. Prime Minister that in the new industrial policy, the industrialists have been given the freedom not to get licence on the one hand and they are given subsidy on the other hand. However, it seems that they do not set up their industries in backward areas. Wherever they feel convenient, they set up industries there. There does not seem to be any programme to set up industries in backward areas like Durgapur and Banswara. I have seen it myself while travelling from Jaipur to Delhi. From this, it appears that though subsidy is given in the name of backwardness, yet they do not get the benefit of it. Secondly, my another point of concern is that the contractors take alongwith them a gang of workers for undertaking a job. Whenever, they complete one work, they engage in another work and thus go on working across the country. On the one hand, we appeal for releasing bonded labourers but on the other hand, backwards and adivasis also wander here and there like bonded labourers. Whether the Government would ensure that the industries are also set up in backward areas and the backward people benefit from it?

SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I have time and again, told the hon. Members that after New Industrial Policy, our objective is to place India in the group of leading industrial countries of the whole world. When the nation is marching forward how can we remain behind? Therefore (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BHERU LAL MEENA: Though, the Government is doing this to take the country ahead yet the poor are not getting any benefit.

SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI: It is not so. As I have said that at the time of entering into collaborations for foreign exchange we ensure that (*Interruption*). Mr. Speaker, Sir, when we enter into collaborations for foreign exchange, first of all we see that how far it will work in the interest of our nation. The second thing is that how much foreign exchange will be earned therefrom? Thirdly, we see that what kind of technology we will be getting? In this way, all aspects are considered and applied equally for the welfare of the country.

SHRI BHERU LAL MEENA: What is its use? What steps the Government is taking for the upliftment of backward classes? If you want to go this way, you better shoot them.

SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI: As far as we can attract investment whether it is domestic or foreign—we go to that extent. Similarly, as far as they can provide infrastructure as well as the facilities, they go to that extent. We cannot compell them to move in any backward or forward area.

[*English*]

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO): Sir, I appreciate the

concern of the hon. Members. There is one fact which all of us should note. What does this foreign investment consist of? This consists of mostly infrastructure, which is not available in the country, except in certain areas. Now there is again this situation – unless you have power you cannot have industry. You do not have power. Farmers are shouting that they do not get power even for two hours in 24 hours. Industries are also complaining that they do not get power. So, the infrastructural aspects have become so important that we have given first priority to power, the next priority to roads, ports etc. And once we give this priority, it means that power will reach every corner of the country. We are taking care to see not just to give power where power is already available, but to spread it far and wide so that Banswara also, so that North-Eastern also, so that Madhya Pradesh areas also are covered at the earliest. That is the only thing. Whatever has been happening has been happening.

Today, we have taken a conscious decision that investment now will be mostly in the infrastructure sector and that infrastructure sector can reach the farthest corners of the country. This will take time. As we all know all projects do not come overnight. But, then this is a matter of how to correct the distortion. That is what we are doing. We are not adding to distortions. We are consciously correcting the distortions and the imbalances. But this will take time.

Hon. Members wherever they feel that there is any mistake they can always come to me. We can always go to the State Governments also, because it is not just a matter of the Central Government.

All the industries are in the State sector. The constitution says that industry is a State subject. What can we do? We cannot really jump over the head of the State and go to a backward area to put an industry there. This is not possible; this is a very complicated matter. We will have to be working in coordination with the State Governments. And also the policy which has been laid down is very clear. I have made it absolutely clear in every meeting of mine everywhere that we do not want industries which are not in our category 'one', in our priority 'one'. They may come later after five years, four years. But the point is that I am stressing power as the main priority which has to be satisfied before anything else.

The situation in the country is that whatever we have planned in the 8th Five Year Plan, not even half of that has yet been completed. We have got only two years in the 8th Five Year Plan. Sir, we will have to be galloping even to come to the standard, to the level, where the 8th Five Year Plan has put us. For the last two-three years you know because of the changes, because of so many other dislocations, investment did not come. Now it is coming slowly and we have to make up a good deal in the next two years which we are trying to do. That is all I can say. I agree that there have been imbalances. They are not just today's imbalances; we have inherited imbalances. We have tried on different occasions different methods of removing imbalances, but by and large this has not happened. So, we will have to continue doing that consciously and that is what the Government is doing.

SHRI IMCHALEMBA: Specially the North-East suffers from this want of infrastructure. We have got raw materials,

natural resources, etc., but infrastructure is lacking. Whatever may be the country's policy for industrialisation, unless we have the infrastructure the North-East will always suffer despite the fact that for the country it may be the best. In the North-East we have been talking about the policy and programme of growth centres which will provide us the infrastructure. These have been taken up specially in the North-East and they are in the half way as if they have been neglected. So, I want to know from the Government whether specially in the North-East these growth centres which are half converted will be taken up in the near future by providing more funds and more facilities.

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO: I would like to assure the hon. Members that so far as the growth centres are concerned, we will see that priority is given to backward areas like the North-East and other areas. But that will not solve the problem. That will only solve the problem to a particular extent, not the whole extent. There are many matters which I would like to discuss in this House if possible on any occasion. I am prepared to come up with all the difficulties and all that the Government has done. I have visited the North-East several times. I have more or less adopted the North-East as the Prime Minister to see that all these priority programmes go there. There is a lot of gas available there. But the entrepreneur does not want to go there. For various reasons he is not going there. The raw material is available as the hon. Member said. All this is available; but the distances and perhaps the easy way which is available to some of the industrialists that they can have the industries and make their money right here in Delhi or Bombay or in areas where everybody is going, that attitude is also there. So, we will have to work on several fronts to see that these areas

are covered. We are making that conscious effort as I have just submitted.

[*Translation*]

SHRI LAKSHMAN SINGH: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Union Government has laid a natural gas based HBJ pipeline at a cost of Rs. 1800 Crore covering the largest area of the country. Some persons are interested to set up natural gas based industries. Whether the Government is formulating any scheme for setting up growth centres along this gas pipeline?

[*English*]

SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO: Sir, that is really concerning the Ministry of Petroleum. But I would like to tell the house that there has been a lot of miscalculations in the matter of the availability of gas also. In fact, the exploration that was made, the calculation that was made was very much on the optimistic side. In fact, many industries had been promised in writing that they would be given gas. Suddenly, it transpired that the gas, which was expected at the time of exploration, was not available. So, now we have to cut down on whatever has been allotted already with the result that the industrialists find it very difficult. We are asking many of the industrialists to have the dual-fuel industry or dual-fuel structure or planning which is easy to do all at once. So, these are some of the limitations. We do not know while exploring whether the explorer was wrong or the miscalculation took place for reasons beyond his control. We are going into all this.

We are also exploring new areas and happily for us, new areas are coming up with certain deposits of gas. Therefore,

I would like the Members to bear with the Government on all these matters. These are imponderables which cannot be calculated accurately in advance. And, therefore, to the extent mistakes occur, we will have to go on adjusting to the new situations. And everyone would have to be cooperating in this.

MR SPEAKER: Q. No. – 325. Shri S.M. Laljan Basha—absent.

Surplus Land

+

*326. SHRI KHELAN RAM
JANGDE:

DR. KRUPA SINDHU BHOI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the surplus land in the country as on December 31, 1993;

(b) the details of the surplus land distributed amongst the rural poor till January, 1994;

(c) whether possession of land allotted to SCs/STs has yet not been given;

(d) if so, the details thereof, State-wise;

(e) the steps taken to implement land reform measures expeditiously; and

(f) the State-wise progress made in this matter as on date?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE
MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
DEPARTMENT OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT
AND MINISTER OF STATE IN