

SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA: That Government was also a short term Government.

[*English*]

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the pulses are known to be the poor man's food. But today, particularly in Andaman and Nicobar Island's we find the prices of pulses have gone up so much that it is beyond the reach of the poor man.

Just now the hon. Minister replied that he has written to the State Governments that if they like, they can include them in the P.D. system. I would like to know particularly from him, since the Union Territories are the domain of the Central Government, whether he would initiate the action by introducing the P.D. system in the Union Territories, particularly in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep so that the poor people can be benefited by this.

SHRI TARUN GOGOI: We have not yet taken any decision. I would like to convey this point to Civil Supplies Minister for consideration.

As for the price rise in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, I can advise the NAFED, and NAFED can supply this item to you.

SHRI NIRMAL KANTI CHATTERJEE: The question that I want to ask is this: Is it true that despite the fact that pulses are considered to be the poor man's protein, there has not been adequate emphasis to add to the production of pulses, as has been done in the case of other items like cereals and even grapes?

My second part of the question is, if it is under the OGL, like the Food Corporation of India, why is it not possible for the Government of India to procure pulses and make it available to the States so that if and when the States so desire, they can

distribute it through the Public Distribution System? The loss that has to be incurred need not be borne by the States, but it has to be borne by the Centre. Why is it not being done?

SHRI TARUN GOGOI: Sir, special emphasis has been given taking into consideration the protein value and the shortage. That is why it has been included as a Technical Mission also. This year also, we will make a provision of Rs. 20 crores. There are two centrally sponsored Central schemes; one is, National Pulses Development Programme and the other is, special Foodgrains Production Programme. We have taken note of it and a lot of emphasis has been given. As far as procurement is concerned, uptill now, we have not procured, but NAFED has procured it.

[*Translation*]

SHRI M. BAGA REDDY: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the prices of commodities depend on supply and demand. If the supply of pulses is increased, their prices will ultimately come down. I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what schemes are being launched to increase the production of pulses.

MR. SPEAKER: The Hon. Minister has just now explained it.

[*English*]

SHRI TARUN GOGOI: I have explained that just now.

Industrial Projects of A.P.

*330. SHRI DATTATRAYA BANDARU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the various projects/schemes of Andhra Pradesh pending for clearance by the Union Government and since, when each scheme is pending;

(b) whether the development of the State and the employment potentiali-

ties have come to a stand-still due to the inordinate delay in according approval to the various projects/schemes; and

(c) if so, the action taken by the Union Government in this regard and the probable time by which each project of the State is likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. P. J. KURIEN): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT

(a) 293 applications for grant of Letter of Intent for setting up of industrial units in the State of Andhra Pradesh were pending as on 30th June, 1991.

(b) Letters of Intent and registrations under different schemes for the setting up of industries in Andhra Pradesh and elsewhere in the country are granted on a regular basis as per the existing policy.

(c) As per the New Industrial Policy, industrial licensing has been abolished for all projects except for a short list of industries related to security and strategic concerns etc.

[*Translation*]

SHRI DATTATRAYA BANDARU: Mr. Speaker, Sir, the Government has announced a liberal industrial policy, but there is a lot of bureaucratic hurdles involved in obtaining the licences. Keeping all these hurdles in view, is the new government prepared to adopt the one window clearance system?

[*English*]

PROF. P. J. KURIEN: Mr. Speaker, Sir, I do not agree with the hon. Member that red-tapism is continuing even after the introduction of the new Industrial Policy. Under the new In-

dustrial Policy, licence is not required to start a new industry. The entrepreneur is only required to submit a memorandum and after submitting the memorandum, he can proceed ahead. But there are two restrictions; one is that of location and the other is that of environmental clearance. It is upto the entrepreneurs to get this clearance. As far as the Department of Industry is concerned, there is no other restriction. Therefore, the assumption of the hon. Member, that red-tapism is there, is not correct and I do not agree with him. I would also like to make it clear that regarding the pending applications we are informing the applicants that licence is not required and they can proceed ahead.

[*Translation*]

SHRI DATTATRAYA BANDARU: Mr. Speaker, Sir, there are number of hurdles in the way of establishing industries in obtaining the environmental clearance. Is there any liberalisation scheme formulated by the government to remove the hurdles in obtaining pollution clearance?

PROF. P. J. KURIEN: Sir, it is in the interest of our country that the environment should be protected and wherever there is an industry which causes pollution, the Government has to take care of it. We cannot do away with environmental clearance.

SHRI SOBHANA DRESWARA RAO VADDE: The answer to Part A is not complete. The hon. Member has raised the issue of some of the schemes which are pending clearance in Andhra Pradesh.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether it is not a fact that the A.P. Electronics Development Corporation was one of the first institutions to have proposed for approval to manufacture colour picture tubes in the State of Andhra Pradesh and after it has submitted the applications, whether it is not a fact that three other concerns were given approval

and these are still pending with the Union Government and, if so, whether the Government will take adequate steps so that the A.P. Electronics Development Corporation in collaboration with Philippines and Holland can start manufacturing colour picture tubes in Andhra Pradesh.

PROF. P. J. KURIEN: I will certainly examine the proposal. The A.P. Electronics proposal is pending. Government will examine it and take action.

SHRI K. P. REDDAIAH: Earlier also Central Government wanted to put up some industries in Andhra Pradesh. But they became truncated as in the case of the Ordnance factory and BHEL. Half of the industries were taken to Tamil Nadu or to some other States. Now in Machilipatnam, six years back, the Government of India has proposed to set up a salt-based caustic soda plant at a cost of Rs. 300 crores. So far no action has been taken. I would like to request the hon. Minister whether the Government will set up caustic

soda plant as Machhlipatnam has no industry worth the name.

PROF. P. J. KURIEN: For that, a specific notice is required.

SC/ST Employees

*331. SHRI MUKUL WASNIK: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of employees in Groups A, B, C and D in the services of the Union Government and the number of SC/ST employees amongst them; and

(b) the steps taken to make up the shortfall in the required percentage of SC/ST employees in the services of the Union Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) and (b) A statement is enclosed.