

pending. Various considerations such as availability of infrastructure, raw materials, know-how, demand, capacity installed etc., are kept in view while taking decisions on industrial licence applications. Every effort is being made to dispose of the pending applications as expeditiously as possible.

#### Use of I.A.F. Planes by former Minister in the Military of Defence

80. SHRI GANANATH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of times Shri J. B. Patnaik, former Minister of State for Defence had used the Air Force Plane during January, 1976 to March 15, 1977; and

(b) the purpose of his journeys and the places of his visit?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM): (a) Shri J. B. Patnaik, former Raksha Rajya Mantri on indent was provided 64 sorties in IAF VIP aircraft during the period 1st January, 1976 to 15th March, 1977.

(b) The places visited by Shri J. B. Patnaik are given in the statement laid on the Table of the House. (Placed in Library. See No. LT-102/77). The exact purpose of the visit is not known. However, in the passenger manifests rendered by the Secretariat of the former Minister the purpose of all the journeys has been certified as official.

#### Setting up of a Broadcasting Station in Vidarbha Region

81. SHRI VASANT SATHE: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Maharashtra have sent a proposal to set

up a broadcasting station in Vidarbha region during the Fifth Plan; and

(b) the action taken or proposed to be taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI L. K. ADVANI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Vidarbha region of Maharashtra is already within the primary service range of existing All India Radio stations in the State. There are no immediate proposals to set up any new station in this region.

#### Sick Small Scale Industrial Units

82. SHRI VASANT SATHE: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of sick small scale industrial units in the country, state-wise;

(b) whether the question of sick units has assumed a serious proportion; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI BRIJLAL VERMA): (a) and (b). The Census of Small Scale Industries revealed that 12151 units were sick in 1972. State-wise their number is given in the attached statement. No census of small scale units has been undertaken since then.

(c) There are State level Coordination Committees under the Chairmanship of Secretary (Industries) of the State Government for analysing the cases of sick units and for providing necessary assistance to these units. The Director of Small Industries Service Institutes are Member-Secretaries of these Committees.