

recruitment, qualifications, career advancement, continuing education, performance appraisal etc., would be issued separately.

(c) Since medical education is not within the purview of UGC, it is not proposed to include medical colleges under the UGC Scheme of revision of pay scales.

Assignment of Land to Settlers in Kerala

1094. SHRI P.C.THOMAS: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Kerala Government has made any request to make amendment to Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 to facilitate the cultivating agriculturists in forests areas in Kerala to retain the land for cultivation who are in possession thereof prior to 1 January, 1977; and

(b) if so, the action taken by Union Government thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI):
(a). No. Sir,

(b) The matter is subjudice.

Financial Assistance for Technological Upgradation

1095. SHRI DHARMESH PRASAD VARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government have asked the industrialists to update the technology in the industry;

(b) if so, whether Government are con-

sidering to give financial assistance for this purpose; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (PROF. M.G.K. MENON): (a) to (c). In the scene of industrial technology, the imported component contributes to a substantial part of industrial production in the country. R&D efforts to absorb imported technology are inadequate R & D in industry by industry is of recent origin in India and has been increasing of late. Government in recognition of the need for technology upgradation has evolved measures such as: encouraging and recognising establishment of in-house R&D units in industries; encouraging establishment of new enterprises using indigenous technology developed; providing support to consultancy organisations with a view to assisting enterprises; and providing support to programmes undertaken in the industries for absorption of imported technology. To absorb imported technology, partial financial assistance is being provided to specific approved programmes of over 20 companies, supported by Department of Scientific & Industrial Research (DSIR). Some examples are: Instrumentation Limited, Bharat Earth Movers Limited, Hindustan Antibiotics, Kerala Minerals and Metals. Tamil Nadu Industrial Explosives, Punjab Tractors etc.

Assistance to Orissa for Remote Sensing Application Centre

1096. SHRI BHAJAMAN BEHERA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the extent to which the States are being assisted in the matter of rapid image processing/remote sensing applications;

(b) the details of assistance sought by Orissa in the past three years for the purpose; and

(c) whether any interactive computer requested for by the State is proposed to be provided by the Centre?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT (PROF. M.G.K. MENON):

(a). The extent to which the State are being assisted in the matter of rapid image processing/remote sensing applications are:

- Providing technical guidance and support towards infrastructural build-up.
- Identification of manpower requirements.
- Association of State Remote Sensing Centres in various nationally relevant projects for natural resources.
- Providing some financial assistance as "seed money" for the setting up of State Remote Sensing Centre subject to a matching contribution by the State Governments.

(b) During the last three-year period, Orissa State Remote Sensing Centre has sought assistance from Department of Space (DOS) for procurement of a suitable image processing system.

(c) DOS has provided financial assistance to the extent of Rs. 20.00 lakhs to the Orissa State Remote Sensing Centre for the procurement of an interactive computer system for image processing.

Pak Concentration on Borders

1097. SHRI RAM SAGAR (Saidpur):
SHRI P.M. SAYEED:
SHRI GOPI NATH GAJAPATHI:
SHRIMATI CHENNUPATI VIDYA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the recent press report about concentration and mass movements of Pakistani troops across the Western borders, especially borders of J&K, Punjab, Rajasthan and Kutch;

(b) if so, what is the Government's independent assessment in this regard; and

(c) the steps taken by Government to meet any eventuality of aggression or other onslaught?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. RAJA RAMANNA): (a) Government have seen media reports in this regard.

(b) and (c). A close watch is kept on all developments having a bearing on our national security and appropriate measures are taken as necessary to ensure full defence preparedness.

Objectives and Priorities in Eighth Plan

1098. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA:
SHRI B. RAJARAVI VARMA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are laying greater emphasis on agriculture, rural devel-