

by way of transferring assets and skills and providing employment in the slack season of the year. The Integrated Rural Development Programme and the National Rural Employment Programme are conceived with this in view. There is also a provision for Special Component plan for the uplift of Scheduled Castes for which substantial provision have been made in the Plan by way of special Central assistance. The National Minimum Needs Programme is expected to directly supplement the living standards of the poor through the provision of basic amenities of life to them.

[English]

#### Election of India in UNESCO's executives

4527. SHRI KAMAL NATH : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether India has been elected to UNESCO's executive; and

(b) if so, the facts thereof including the term of office ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI B. R. BHAGAT) : (a) Yes, Sir. India's nominee Shri Swaran Singh, former Foreign Minister, was elected to the 51-Member UNESCO Executive Board by its General Conference in Sofia on 19th October 1985;

(b) Shri Swaran Singh received 146 votes out of 149, which was the highest number of votes polled by any candidate. His term of office will be for 4 years from 9 November 1985.

#### Concept of district planning during Seventh Plan

4528. SHRI SRIBALIAV PANIGRAHI : Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of Government to introduce the concept of district planning during the Seventh Five Year Plan period; and

(b) whether functional relationship between the districts and States has been worked out ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI A. K. PANJA) : (a) The need for decentralisation of planning has been emphasised from plan to plan and the concept of district planning which was commended to the State Governments as early as 1969 is proposed to be vigorously operationalised during the 7th Plan.

(b) The District Planning Bodies are to prepare the Plans for the Districts and forward the Plans to the State Planning Bodies/State Planning Departments for being taken into account while formulating the State Plans. The actual functional relationship between the District Planning Bodies and the State Planning Bodies will, however, have to be worked out in detail by each State Government, taking into account the State of its readiness for decentralisation and in the light of the recommendations made by the Working Group on District Planning, copies of which have already been sent to all the State Governments.

#### Import of high technology

4529. SHRI C. P. THAKUR : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) the fields in which India is going to import high technology; and

(b) the steps being taken to incorporate these high technologies in our technology for growth of Indian technology ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL) : (a) and (b). The fields in which technology import will continue to be permitted are those which are sophisticated and in high priority area, indigenous development of which would delay achieving our national targets. Efforts will be made to ensure that the technology imported is absorbed and further efforts are made to improve them.