

(b) the amount sanctioned to Tamil Nadu Government for development of backward areas during the last two years and current year and the anticipated grants during the next five years?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI MORARJI DESAI): (a) The policy and programmes for the development of backward areas were hitherto characterised by a selective approach aimed either at specific problems (e.g. drought, hill area development) or at specific target groups (e.g. small and marginal farmers, tribal population). Besides, for industrially backward areas, incentives were provided

to promote industrial growth. These programmes are continuing, but in the new plan, they are sought to be systematically coordinated and integrated with other programmes into area development plans, with the development block as the unit of planning. A High-level Committee has been formed to examine the problems of backward areas and to suggest new directions of policy.

(b) Allocations of special central assistance to Tamil Nadu during the last two years and current year are given below:—

Scheme	(Rs. in lakhs)		
	1976-77	1977-78	1978-79
DPA	154.03	157.83	174.30
SFDA	245.85	303.56	397.20
Hill Area Development	150.00	100.00	170.00
Tribal Sub-Plans	40.00	45.00	54.00
Re-imbursments made under Central Investment Subsidy schemes to industrial units	238.32	292.78	100.53
		(Up to 30-11-78)	

Allocations for the next five years have not yet been worked out.

Proposal to Reduce Price of Cloth

2437. SHRI KACHARULAL HEM-RAJ JAIN: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of Government to reduce the price of cloth which has been rising for the last 15 years;

(b) if so, the particulars of the proposal; and

(c) if not the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c). Pricing of cloth like any other product is conditioned by forces of demand and supply and therefore,

cannot be viewed in isolation. There is no specific proposal specially for reducing prices of cloth. The consumer prices of controlled cloth however have been kept at the same level as before.

Screening of Smuggled Films

2438. SHRI D. AMAT: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether some smuggled foreign films with forged certificates have been screened in some States during the last three years; and

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

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI L. K. ADVANI): (a) and (b). One case of such violation came to the

notice of the Board of Film Censors recently. With the help of the State Government the print of the film has been seized. The State Government has been requested to take further action in accordance with the provisions of law.

सद्य उद्योगों की स्थापना के लिए सहायता

2439. श्री राम कुंवर बेरवा : क्या उद्योग मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि

(क) ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में लोगों द्वारा अपने उद्योग स्थापित किये जाने में सरकार द्वारा क्या सहायता दी जाती है; और

(ख) क्या इससे ग्रामीण लोगों के रहने का स्तर ऊंचा होगा ?

उद्योग मंत्री (श्री आर्च फर्नांडीस) :

(क) ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों के लोगों को अपने उद्योग लगाने के लिए सहायता प्रदान करने हेतु ग्रामीण उद्योग परियोजना कार्यक्रम ग्रामीण कस्बों में कार्यक्रम मूल/सीमान्त घन की व्यवस्था योजना तथा जिला उद्योग केन्द्र जैसी अनेक योजनाएं चालू की गई हैं ।

(ख) केन्द्र द्वारा चलाई गई योजनाओं के उद्देश्यों में से एक उद्देश्य यह भी है कि ग्रामीण क्षेत्र के लोगों को अपना काम करके रोजगार की लाभप्रद योजनाएं चला कर उनके रहन-सहन के स्तर को ऊंचा उठाया जाए ।

Terrific explosion in Gun Powder Factory at Pune

2440. SHRI YADVENDRA DUTT: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the news-item published on the 4th November, 1978, saying that at mid-day in the Gun Powder Factory at Pune, there was a terrific explosion; and

(b) if so, whether any enquiry has been made and if so, the results thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (PROF. SHER SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Board of Enquiry investigated into the cause of fire, (not explosion as reported in the news-item) in a stack of unserviceable timber packing boxes, which destroyed 4000 packings valued at Rs. 6000 (approx.). There was no injury to any personnel. The Board did not find any evidence for pin-pointing cause of fire but suggested some remedial measures which are being implemented.

Percentage of women arrested in murder cases

2441. SHRI K. MALLANNA:

SHRI S. S. SOMANI:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the percentage of women arrested in murder cases is higher in India than other countries;

(b) whether any sample survey of women convicts has been carried out in jails in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI DHANIK LAL MANDAL) :

(a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c). The Bureau of Police Research and Development, Ministry of Home Affairs conducted a study on "Criminality Amongst Women In India" from 1971 to 1975. The study reveals that the percentage of women arrested in murder cases is higher in India than in other countries. The percentage of women arrested on murder charges to total female arrests for other I.P.C. Crimes in India in 1975 was 4.40 whereas in Japan, Ireland, Thailand, West Germany and U.S.A. it was 0.6, 0.4, 0.1, 0.2 and 0.24 respectively.