

dities, provision of basic human needs and development of infrastructure have also been emphasised.

(c) and (d) The observations made in the Report are quite well known to the Government and for quite some time several programmes have been launched for increasing the agricultural productivity in the country and creating more employment opportunities. All these programmes for the amelioration of the conditions of the rural poor have received a renewed emphasis in the Revised 20-Point Programme.

Application of Central Govt. Employees Group Insurance Scheme to Employees of Delhi Administration

*647. SHRI D. M. PUTTE GOWDA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Government Employees Group Insurance Scheme which came into force from 1 January, 1982 is applicable to the employees of Delhi Administration;

(b) if so, full details thereof;

(c) if not, whether there is any proposal under the consideration of Government to make the scheme applicable to the employees of Delhi Administration also; and

(d) if not, the reasons for such distinction between the employees of Central Government and Delhi Administration?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND DEPARTMENT OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) It is proposed to introduce in each Union territory, including the Delhi Administration, a separate group insurance scheme, on the lines of the Central Government Employees Group Insurance Scheme, 1980.

Steps for Improving E.S.I. Services

*648. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain steps have been taken recently by his Ministry to improve Employees State Insurance Services;

(b) if so, what are the steps taken for its expansion, collection of contribution and settlement of benefits;

(c) the guidelines sent by his Ministry to various States in this connection; and

(d) the details about the programmes undertaken in various States and Union Territories for the success of E.S.I. Schemes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI BHAGWAT JHA AZAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The following steps have been taken:—

(i) a revised phased programme for the extension of the scheme in new areas/new sectors of employment during 1982-83 has been drawn up and circulated to the State Government for implementation.

(ii) the State Governments have been requested to set up Special Recovery Cells for expediting recovery of arrears of contributions;

(iii) the State Governments have been delegated enhanced administrative and financial powers with regard to provision of medical benefit;

(iv) the Corporation authorities have been instructed to ensure expeditious settlement of claims for cash benefits.

(d) The Corporation has undertaken a programme for the construction of its own buildings for ESI Hospitals and dispensaries under which 79 Hospitals and 37 annexes providing 17,304 beds have been commissioned so far. 4 Hospitals with 400 beds have been completed and are ready for commissioning. In addition, 12 Hospitals and 6 annexes to provide 1344 beds are at various stages of construction in different States.

“Pollution of Holy Rivers in North and South”

6939. SHRI H. N. NANJE GOWDA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that some rivers in our country are treated with reverence both in the North as well as in the South and every year many people visit these rivers to have a holy dip;

(b) whether Government would identify those rivers and ensure that they are kept pollution free; and

(c) whether a Central Scheme will be initiated in this regard and if so, by what time

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ENVIRONMENT, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, ELECTRONICS AND OCEAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI C.P.N. SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Many Rivers and Streams both in North and in the South are considered holy. People often go to take a holy dip in them, particularly on religious occasions. Some of the holy rivers are:

Ganga, Yamuna, Sarayu, Narmada, Kshipra, Kaverie, Sabarmati, Godavari and Krishna.

In view of the important use of the rivers for holy dips, the relevant stretches have been classified under Class B of the Designated Best Use Classification by the Central Board in consultation with the respective State Boards. Every effort is being made by the State Boards to upgrade the water quality in these reaches to satisfy the requirements for such a classification.

(c) As the State Boards are live to the problem and are taking necessary action, there is no need at present to initiate a Central Scheme in this regard.

Financial Assistance for Development of Small and Cottage Industries

6940. **SHRI G.Y. KRISHNAN:** Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the details regarding the financial assistance given by the Central Government to the States for development of small and cottage industries in the rural areas during the last two years year-wise;

(b) whether Government are satisfied themselves about the implementation of the schemes particularly the performances;

(c) if so, the extent of progress made in rural industrialisation in each State;

(d) whether aid was not fully utilised by some States; and

(e) if so, to what extent and what are the reasons are adduced for failure to utilise the aid ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI): (a) to (e) Central assistance to States for the State Plan Schemes is made in the form of block loans and grants for the State Plan as a whole. An outlay of Rs. 13650.85 lakhs was provided in the Annual Plan 1980-81 in the State sector for the development of village and small industries. This outlay was enhanced to Rs. 15320.70 lakhs in 1981-82. The actual expenditure reported by States/ Union Territories for the year 1980-81 was about 96% of the approved outlay, while in the year 1981-82 the anticipated expenditure is in excess of the approved outlay for that year for the development of village and small industries sector. Government is paying due attention to the development of rural industries in the country.

Study of Role of Industry in Sixth Plan

6941. **SHRI K. MALLANNA:** Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any study on the role of industry in the Sixth Five Year Plan has been conducted by the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the new suggestions submitted for the growth to be achieved in the remaining years of the Plan ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI): (a) to (c) According to the FICCI, a study conducted by the Federation on the Role of Industry in the Sixth Plan formed the Background Paper for a Workshop in December, 1981. The FICCI has stated that the study outlines the performance of industry during previous Plans and reasons for slackening in the growth of industry in the recent past; identifies certain constraints, highlights the need for adequate finance and also analyses the feasibility of Sixth Plan targets for selected industries. Suggestions made in the Study include those for strengthening of infrastructure, eliminating delays in government clearances, suitable modifications in the pricing policy and certain fiscal and other measures.