

(c) Yes, Sir. Planning Commission engaged the services of NIRD (National Institute of Rural Development), Hyderabad to assist State governments for the preparation of model district plans for the districts of Tirunelveli- Kottambomman (Tamil Nadu), Nasik (Maharashtra), Munghyr (Bihar), Shimla (Himachal Pradesh) and Sitapur (Uttar Pradesh).

(d) The State Government has been advised that Wardha plan schemes should place greater emphasis on village self-sufficiency, intensive use of labour on agro-based industries and on non-land base employment, and incorporated as part of the State Plan.

Construction of Roads in Hilly Ranges of Vidarbha

6137. SHRI VASANT SATHE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the amendment made in 1988 to the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 has adversely affected the development works such as construction of roads etc. in villages located in hilly ranges of vidarbha region in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, details of the villages affected; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to ensure speedy and effective development of these tribal/hilly areas?

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. It may be noted that no Proposal regarding construction of village road in vidarbha region is pending with Central Government for clearance under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Steps taken in May 1989 to ensure speedy disposal of cases under Forest (Conservation) Act 1980 are as below:

1. Diversion of forest land for construction of buildings for schools, hospitals, dispensaries, community halls, co-operatives, panchayats, tiny rural industrial sheds of Government etc. which are to be put up for the benefit of the people of that area are now to be considered but such diversions should be strictly limited to the actually needed area and should not exceed one hectare in each case.
2. In hill districts and in other districts having forest land exceeding 50 per cent of the total geographical area, compensatory afforestation on non-forest land is not insisted upon and is permitted on degraded forest land twice in extent of the area diverted provided forest land involved is less than 5 hectares and the small water works, minor irrigation works, school building, dispensary, hospitals, tiny rural industrial shed of the government or any other similar work which directly benefit the people of the area.
3. Only those cases wherein forest area involved is more than 10 hectares are now referred to Advisory Committee for its advice. Cases involving forest area upto 10 hectares are decided by this Ministry without referring those to the Advisory Committee. The Regional Chief

Conservator of Forests have been authorised to clear proposals involving forest land less than one hectare.

Schemes for Industrially Backward States

6138. SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the main criteria for declaring a state industrially backward,

(b) whether Kerala is regarded as an industrially backward state;

(c) whether the Planning Commission is considering any special plan to remove the industrial backwardness of such stated during the Eighth Plan; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI VISHWANATH PRATAP SINGH): (a) The Pandey Working group, set up by the Planning Commission in 1968, to study the question of regional imbalances, recommended the following criteria to be applied in aggregate, for the purpose of identification of industrially backward States and Union Territories:

- (i) Total per capital income;
- (ii) Per capital income from Industry & Mining;
- (iii) Number of workers engaged in registered factories;
- (iv) Per capital annual consumption of electricity;
- (v) Length of surface roads in relation to-(a) population; and (b) area of the State;

(vi) Railway mileage in relation to-(a) the population; and (b) the area of the State-

Besides, States (Assam, Jammu & Kashmir and Nagaland) identified earlier for Special Central Assistance owing to their special problems and backwardness, were also to be considered for special treatment by way of incentives for promotion of industrial development.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d). In order to remove industrial backwardness, a number of fiscal and non-fiscal incentives and concessions have been provided by Central and State governments. The question of promoting a more balanced industrial development will be duly considered while finalising the Eighth Plan. In 1990-91, the Central Investment Subsidy Scheme is being revived for small scale industry located in backward and rural areas.

Navodaya Vidyalayas

6139. SHRIGULAB CHAND KATARIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Navodaya Vidyalayas Scheme was started by Government to create some model schools in different parts of the country so that other schools could emulate their example;

(b) whether the purpose of opening these schools has been fulfilled;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether opening of these schools in large numbers has defeated the very purpose of the original scheme; and

(e) whether Government are satisfied