

allowed recently in respect of two employees, of which one belongs to Scheduled Caste.

(d) Does not arise.

High Power Committee for Khadi and Village Industries Employees

8838. SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD:
SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKARA MURTHY:
SHRI KUSUMA KRISHNA MURTHY:
SHRI PRAKASH KOKO BRAHMBHATT:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have appointed a high power committee to look into the demands and grievances of the employees of various voluntary organisations engaged in Khadi and village industries in the country;

(b) if so, the composition of the Committee;

(c) when the Committee is likely to submit its report; and

(d) the details of benefits Government propose to give to khadi and village industries to boost their production and sale, etc.?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) to (c). The Government have decided to appoint a High Powered Committee to look into the grievances of the employees of various voluntary organisation engaged in KVI Sector in the country. The composition and the terms of reference are under finalisation.

(d) For the promotion of khadi and village industries to boost the production and sales, the following facilities have been provided:—

- (1) Provision of funds at low rate of interest,
- (2) Subsidy towards interest,
- (3) Rebate on sale of Khadi and Polyvastra,
- (4) Purchase preference to V.I. products,
- (5) Excise and customs duty exemption,
- (6) Preferential treatment in regard to supply of raw material,
- (7) Assistance for Research and Development products,
- (8) Assistance in marketing products.

New Airlink facilities in Tamil Nadu

8839. SHRI N. DENNIS: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any proposals for providing new Airlink facilities in the southern part of Tamil Nadu; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN): (a) and (b). At present there are no plans to provide new airlinks in the southern part of Tamil Nadu.

Direct Express Trains to Kanyakumari

8840. SHRI N. DENNIS: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state: