

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA):

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) the High Powered Panel has been entrusted with the following functions:—

- (i) to ascertain if the benefits of various fiscal policies of Government, both Union and States, really reach the minorities, scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and other weaker sections of society;
- (ii) to identify the constraints or bottlenecks whereby incentives, facilities and other encouragements are not being fully availed of by them;
- (iii) to suggest ways and means by which the benefits of various fiscal policies, incentives, facilities and other encouragements reach them;
- (iv) to make recommendations with regards to other allied matters.

The State Governments were not consulted while appointing the High Powered Panel.

(c) According to the Government Resolution constituting the Panel, it has been given a time of three months to submit its report to Government. The Panel at its first meeting felt that this time-limit was somewhat unrealistic and it hopes to submit its report to Government as early as possible.

Working of District Industries Centres

***57. SHRIMATI PRAMILA DANDAVATE:** Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any appraisal of the working of the District industries centres has been initiated;

(b) if so, what is the preliminary report; and

(c) whether there has been any further extension of the programme in mostly backward areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI CHARANJIT CHANANA):

(a) to (c) The working of the District Industries Centres Programme is under review of Government.

Loss in Braithweight Burn & Jessop Company

***58. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH:** Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Braithweight, Burn and Jessop construction company is incurring a loss of crores of rupees;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that the production of the company is shown as double than the actual production; and

(d) if so, what are the steps taken by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI CHARANJIT CHANANA):

(a) Yes, Sir. Accumulated loss upto 1978-79 is Rs. 325.70 lakhs.

(b) (i) recession in demand from time to time, (ii) non-availability of essential inputs in time, (iii) shortage of working capital, and (iv) poor industrial relations.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Various measures are under consideration including changes in the financial and organisational structure of the company. Action has also been initiated to select another Chief Executive for the Company.