

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c). Some reports have appeared regarding sluggishness in investments. However, as pointed out in the Economic Survey, 1978-79, there is little evidence that industrial investment is actually sluggish.

Various measures have been taken up by the Government to promote industrial investment within the framework of the Industrial Policy Statement laid on the Table of the House on December 23, 1977. Thus, Plan Expenditure in 1978-79 is being stepped up by 17 per cent over 1977-78. The expenditure on rural, village and small industries in the annual plan has been stepped up by about 50 per cent. Investments in the power, coal, cement and oil industries, among others, are being stepped up. Further, fiscal and monetary incentives have also been announced in the recent budget for investment. These include lowering of the interest rates, incentives for investment for new equity issues, higher depreciation allowance for workers' housing, reduction of customs duties on certain items of machinery, etc.

Central Assistance to Madhya Pradesh in Fifth Plan

*321. **SHRI PARMANAND GOVINDJIWALA:** Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) the total amount of the central assistance to the States based on Gadgil formula given in the Fifth Plan;

(b) whether one of the ingredients of the Gadgil formula for allotment of central assistance is special problem of the States and further the State of Madhya Pradesh has not received any central assistance under this head during the Fifth Plan;

(c) whether the State of Madhya Pradesh has a special problem with regard to the upliftment of all aboriginals.

(d) whether there was an exchange of letters between the Chief Minister and Vice-Chairman of the Planning Commission since Madhya Pradesh has not received any central assistance on account of special problems; and

(e) if so, the outcome thereof?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI MORARJI DESAI): (a) The total allocation of Central assistance to the States on Gadgil formula for the Fifth Plan, 1974-75 to 1977-78, is Rs. 3827 crores.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Yes, Sir, but substantial assistance for dealing with this problem is being given out of the special provision for tribal areas; this assistance is over and above the assistance available under the Gadgil formula.

(d) and (e). The State Chief Minister had requested Deputy Chairman of the Planning Commission to make an allocation for Madhya Pradesh out of the Central assistance reserved for special problems. It was explained to the Chief Minister that Madhya Pradesh was not eligible for such allocation.

Harassment of Newspapermen

*322. **SHRI V. A. SEYID MUHAMMAD:** Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the reported statement of Mr. D. R. Zirlana, news editor of "Mizoaw" in "Times of India" dated 3rd February, 1978 that there is considerable harassment of newspaper men even after Emergency and the only difference is that during the Emergency, Emergency laws were used but now Indian Penal Code provisions are being used; and

(b) the steps Government propose to take to put a stop to this harassment?