

The Minister of International Trade in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Licences have been already issued on the basis of recommendations received from the State Governments concerned.

Production in Heavy Industries

*367. { Shrimati Savitri Nigam:
Shri P. C. Borooah:

Will the Minister of Steel and Heavy Industries be pleased to state:

(a) whether a change is envisaged in the pattern of production under the Third Plan in the sphere of heavy industries in order to meet the challenge of the present border crisis; and

(b) if so, what changes are proposed to be made?

The Minister of Steel and Heavy Industries (Shri C. Subramaniam): (a) and (b). No significant change is envisaged in the pattern of production. There may be minor modifications but essentially the question is one of stepping up production. Effort is being directed towards increasing production in Units which are already working and speeding up construction of heavy industrial projects which are under construction.

Synthetic Vitamin A Plant at Thana, Bombay

*368. **Shri Maheswar Nalk:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a Rs. 2 crore synthetic vitamin A plant set up at Thana near Bombay by a Swiss firm in partnership with Voltas Ltd. will shortly go into production;

(b) the overall needs of this product in the country and to what extent this plant will meet those needs; and

(c) the foreign exchange components of this project and how this aspect is being dealt with?

The Minister of Industry in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Shri Kanungo): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The total requirements of this item are estimated at 20 M.M.U. per annum out of which 50 per cent will be met by this plant.

(c) The foreign exchange required for this project, which was estimated at about Rs. 1.6 crores originally will be met by foreign investment in the Indian Company agreed to by the Government of India.

Import of coal used in Steel manufacture

{ Shri P. C. Borooah:
*369. { Shri P. R. Chakraverti:
Shri Joti Saroop:

Will the Minister of Steel and Heavy Industries be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to import quality coking coal for use in steel manufacture in the country;

(b) if so, what decision has been taken in the matter; and

(c) how much coal is to be imported under the scheme and from where?

The Minister of Steel and Heavy Industries (Shri C. Subramaniam):

(a) to (c). The possibility of importing coking coal from abroad has been mooted in connection with certain Fourth Plan proposals and the manufacture of pig iron in blast furnaces. No final decision has, however, been taken in the matter.

Loans to Tea Producers

772. { Shri A. K. Gopalan:
Shri P. Kunhan:

Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have placed at the disposal