

year in the shape of relief grants to students in the eastern region. About 2 years ago we took a decision that if this population is to be assimilated in the normal population of the country and if the nomenclature DP as such has to become non-existent we should apply gradual cuts. And, we have started applying a gradual cut of 20 per cent this year. The idea is that this gradual cut will be applied till the whole amount tapers off.

**Shri Vajpayee:** My question was this. According to the statement the responsibility is being transferred to the State Government. I want to know what will happen in the Union territory.

**Shri Mehr Chand Khanna:** In the Union territory we have the direct responsibility.

की विमूर्ति विषय में यह जानना चाहता हूँ कि चम्पारन में लालसरैया में रेफ्यूजियों को जो टेक्निकल एजुकेशन दी जाती है, क्या सरकार ने उस को बन्द कर दिया है ?

श्री मेहर चन्द खन्ना इस सवाल का उस से कोई ताल्लुक नहीं है, लेकिन जहाँ तक लालसरैया का ताल्लुक है, हम मोतीहारी में एक प्रच्छा सेन्टर खोलने वाले हैं और वहाँ उन के लिये बहुत प्रच्छा इन्तजाम किया जायेगा और तब लालसरैया बन्द कर देंगे—तब तक वह जारी रहेगा।

#### Import Licences

\*719. **Shri Vidya Charan Shukla.** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken recently to simplify the procedure and cut down the delay in the issue of import licences; and

(b) whether these steps have brought about any appreciable improvement in the position?

**The Minister of Commerce (Shri Kanungo):** (a) and (b). The work relating to issue of licences is constantly kept under review and necessary measures are taken wherever

possible to simplify the procedure and cut down delays. A statement showing some of the steps taken recently to simplify the procedure and cut down delays in the issue of licences is laid on the Table of the Sabha [See Appendix III, annexure No 3].

**Shri Vidya Charan Shukla:** The hon. Minister stated that he was in favour of imposing a time limit for the disposal of import licence applications. In the measures indicated in the statement we do not find mention of any such proposal. May we know the specific reasons why that proposal has been dropped?

**Shri Kanungo:** These steps which have been taken will cut down the time limit, that is all.

**Shri Vidya Charan Shukla:** The Union Minister had indicated that he was in favour of imposing a time limit so that within that time limit the concerned import licence applications should be disposed of. I want to know specifically why this proposal has been dropped.

**Shri Kanungo:** It has not been dropped, because all these steps will lead to a quick disposal. As a matter of fact, there have not been very much of delays because pending cases during the period have increased only 2 to 4. And, I hope, as a result of the steps taken it will be reduced much more.

**Shri Vidya Charan Shukla:** The hon. Minister just now said that the proposal has not been dropped. May I understand that the proposal is still under the consideration of Government?

**The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri):** That is under consideration. I may inform the hon. Member that we have set up a departmental committee to go into this matter which is meeting at present. I have invited the representatives of the Federation of Chambers of Commerce to come and meet the committee if they so desire.