

to Small Industries at a reduced cost is also being examined.

Shri Jhulan Sinha: Is it decided to allot any particular sum of money for this purpose?

Shri Kanungo: Yes.

Shri Jhulan Sinha: What is that amount?

Shri Kanungo: I have not got the exact figure, because the institutes have not yet been set up.

Shri M. L. Dwivedi: May I know if any steps are being taken to set up small-scale industries in rural areas where there is no electricity? If so, what is the scheme?

Shri Kanungo: After the four regional institutes are established, they will prepare schemes, and also the State Governments will be preparing their schemes and sending on to the Government of India.

Shri M. L. Dwivedi: May I know if any amount has been set apart for this purpose?

Shri Kanungo: As soon as the schemes come in, funds will be found.

Mr. Speaker: Any other Questions?

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: Yes, Sir.
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SOAP FACTORIES

*297. **Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that certain soap factories in the country have recently been closed down;

(b) if so, which are those factories; and

(c) the reasons for the closure of those factories?

The Deputy Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Kanungo): (a) Government have received no reports in this connection.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Shri M. S. Gurupadaswamy: May I know whether Government will try to collect information, because, according to our information, certain factories have been closed?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri T. T. Krishnamachari): The position is so far as Government records go, only those factories give us information which are registered under the Industries (Regulation and Development) Act, which are about 55 factories. In fact one factory was closed but it has been reopened. I have also heard that certain factories are being closed, and the information that has been given to me by the factory owners is that they find finance rather difficult for various reasons, but they are not factories which come under the Schedule.

Shri K. K. Basu: May I know whether the closure of these factories is the result of the expansion of the productive capacity of Lever Brothers and similar others?

Shri T. T. Krishnamachari: To the best of my information, the position is this. I have spoken to the owner of one of the factories. He said that the protection that has been given to them by means of a differential rate of excise duty was adequate cover against any competition that they have to face, because the organised factories producing a certain amount of soap have got to pay excise duty, but in the particular case of this factory and those similarly situated, their difficulty was largely due to financial considerations, because Banks would not advance money. And he also averred that this difficulty has been aroused largely by means of the agitation that has been raised that the soap industry was not in a good way and therefore Banks are chary of advancing money to them.

Mr. Speaker: That exhausts the Question List.