

question was whether there is to be a tool alloy steel plant at Rourkela with German assistance. To that, we have said 'No'. But there are other special steel and alloy projects coming up, one at Durgapur and another at Bhadravati; certain private firms also have been licensed to produce these items.

Shri D. C. Sharma: What are the conditions governing the grant of licence to these private firms? What is going to be the quantum of capital required to set up these plants?

Shri C. Subramaniam: Generally the experience of the applicant in this field is taken into consideration; also the availability of raw materials, electricity etc. I will not be able to give the other details offhand.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Committee for Jute goods

*95. **Shri Indrajit Gupta:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 495 on the 25th January, 1963 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that very few applications have been received so far by the Committee for registration of sale contracts for export of jute goods;

(b) if so, whether the scheme has proved ineffective for checking under-invoicing; and

(c) whether Government propose to make the scheme compulsory instead of voluntary?

The Minister of International Trade in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) and (b). No, Sir. Since the registration scheme commenced on the 1st January 1963, a total of 1124 sale contracts had been submitted for registration upto the 25th of that month, and registration certificates issued in respect of 964 contracts. The remaining were under scrutiny. There have been no instances of over-invoicing in these contracts.

(c) There is no proposal to make the scheme compulsory.

Fertilizer Plant

*100. **Shri Heda:** Will the Minister of Steel and Heavy Industries be pleased to state:

(a) whether Japanese firms have jointly agreed to supply a fertilizer plant to the Fertilizer Corporation of India; and

(b) if so, the foreign exchange involved and the main terms of the agreement?

The Minister of Steel and Heavy Industries (Shri C. Subramaniam): (a) Yes, Sir. A Japanese consortium of firms has agreed to supply the main plants for the Gorakhpur Fertilizer Project.

(b) The foreign exchange involved in the supply amounts to Rs. 1,044 lakhs. The terms of the agreement are still under negotiation.

Cardamom Industry

125. **Shri A. K. Gopalan:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representation from the Cardamom planters in Kerala to overcome the present crisis in the Cardamom industry; and

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any decision in this matter?

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

(b) A copy of the Government Resolution appointing the Committee is laid on the Table of the House. [*Placed in Library, see No. LT-849/63.*]

Wrist Watches

126. **Shri Marandi:** Will the Minister of Steel and Heavy Industries be pleased to state:

(a) the number of complaints lodged regarding the non-availability of H.M.T. wrist watches since September 1962; and

(b) the action taken in the matter?

The Minister of Steel and Heavy Industries (Shri C. Subramaniam): (a) The Hindustan Machine Tools Limited have received 103 complaints since September 1962.

(b) Assembly operations have been stepped up and the Company's show rooms located at Bangalore, Calcutta, Bombay, Chandigarh, Delhi and Madras are being supplied with stocks for sale to the public.

Election Petitions

127. { Shri Marandi:
Shri B. K. Das:
Shri S. C. Samanta:

Will the Minister of Law be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there are some cases of election petitions still pending;

(b) if so, the number of such cases;

(c) the causes for delay; and

(d) when they are likely to be decided?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Law (Shri Bibudhendra Misra): (a) Yes.

(b) 203.

(c) Briefly, the causes for delay in the disposal of the election petitions are:

(1) large number of witnesses to be examined;

(2) changes in Members of election tribunals consequent on transfer of Judges already appointed;

(3) stay orders by superior Courts during the trial; and

(4) heavy work relating to Sessions cases before the serving Judges appointed as Members of tribunals.

(d) It is not possible to state when all the petitions will be disposed of.

Hindusthan Cable Factory Rupnarainpur

128. { Shri Subodh Hansda:
Shri S. C. Samanta:
Shri B. K. Das:
Shri M. L. Dwivedi:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that there was acute shortage of copper wire in the Hindusthan Cable Factory, Rupnarainpur (West Bengal) in 1961-62;

(b) if so, what was the shortage;

(c) whether the shortage is still there; and

(d) if so, whether any attempt has been made to make up the shortage?

The Minister of Industry in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Shri Kanungo): (a) and (b). Yes. There was shortage of Central Copper Wire for Coaxial Cables.

(c) No.

(d) Does not arise.

Levy of Cess on Industries

129. **Shri P. C. Borooah:** Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 513 on the 25th January, 1963 and state:

(a) whether a decision has since been taken by Government on the proposal to levy a cess on industries failing to export a part of their production; and

(b) if so, what is the precise decision of Government?

The Minister of International Trade in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) and (b). The proposal is still under consideration and the decision will be taken very soon.