

meter industry is facing a crisis due to over-production in the country;

(b) whether it is also a fact that Government estimated the demand of KWH meters at 2.1 million per year whereas the actual demand has not exceeded more than one million single-phase meters a year;

(c) whether it is a fact that certain meter factories are producing twice or three times their licensed capacity as a result of which smaller and medium size factories have been thrown out of production; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken to save and assist the meter industry?

The Minister of Industrial Development and Company Affairs (Shri F. A. Ahmed): (a) During last year there was a glut in the market as the electrification schemes did not progress as anticipated but the position is now improving.

(b) The target of 2.1 million meters is for both single phase and poly-phase meters. The year-wise production of these meters during the years 1964-66 is as follows:—

Year	In million Nos.		
	Sing'e-phase	Poly-phase	Total
1964	1.481	0.055	1.536
1965	1.116	0.114	1.230
1966	1.049	0.141	1.190

(c) A few units have increased their production considerably beyond their licensed capacity but they have achieved the same without any import of additional machinery or raw materials. This has not, however, caused the closure of any of the units producing house-service meters.

(d) Various steps have been taken by the Government to remedy the position. This industry has been put on the banned list for further licensing. Several units have been permitted to diversify their activities by manufacture of Moving Iron Volt Meters, Earthing Resistance Meters, Magnetic Level Gauges etc.

### Handloom Industry in U.P.

859. Shri M. Meghachandra: Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether a serious crisis has hit the handloom industry in U.P. and the Union Territory of Manipur;

(b) whether the prices of yarns, dyes and chemicals have been rising fast for the last few months; and

(c) if so, how many looms and weavers have been affected by the crisis and the steps taken to meet the situation?

The Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Commerce (Shri Shafi Qureshi):

(a) Yes, Sir, in so far as handloom industry in U.P. is concerned. No information has been received in the case of Manipur.

(b) There has been some rise in prices of yarn, dyes and chemicals.

(c) No information is available as to how many looms and weavers have been affected.

The following steps have been taken to meet the situation:—

(i) An ad hoc Committee consisting of representatives of Government, mill and handloom interests has been set up. This Committee will exert the necessary restraints on the industry to keep the prices in check.

(ii) Actual users' licences have been granted for the import of permissible dyes and chemicals in a liberalised way during the current licensing period.

संयन्त्र कर्मचारी समिति, दानापुर  
(पूर्व रेलवे)

860. श्री राजाबख्तर शास्त्री : क्या रेलवे मंत्री यह बातों की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या संयन्त्र कर्मचारी समिति, दानापुर, (पूर्व रेलवे) के रेलवे प्रशासन