

took up the work in close cooperation with the Central Machine Tool Institute, the Development Commissioner, Small Scale Industries, the Directors of Industries of States and the Indian Investment Centre.

(b) The census of machine tools would provide information on the age of the machine tools, now under operation in different sectors of the industry and the general pattern of the machine tools by categories, installed in the country, giving details of actual consumption over the last 20 years. This information would enable the engineering units to assess their competitiveness vis-a-vis other similar units both in the country and abroad. The data collected has been computerised and this data will be kept upto date hereafter. The data collected will form the basis for making a rational estimate of the demand for machine tools in the coming years.

(c) Expenditure to be incurred on the project will be about Rupees Four Lakhs and the Report is expected to be published by May, 1970.

Import Substitution Programme

7829. SHRI MANIBHAI J. PATEL :
SHRI DEVINDER SINGH
GARCHA :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, INTERNAL TRADE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a high level body had been set up to identify and define areas where import substitution could be affected to yield substantial results ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) the amount of saving which accrued to the country as a result of import substitution ; and

(d) what are the areas identified for reducing the imports ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, INTERNAL TRADE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI F. A. AHMED): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The

Committee is functioning as a Standing Committee to continuously take stock of the progress made in the field of import substitution and to give directions on the manner in which action in this field is to be pursued from time to time. The composition of the Committee includes Secretaries of other Economic Ministries, DGTD, DC SSI and representatives from Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry, All India Manufacturers Organisation, Federation of Associations of Small Industries of India and Associated Chamber of Commerce and Industry of India.

(c) and (d). The programme of import substitution covers the entire gamut of industry and continuous efforts are being made in all the Sectors of the industry to develop more and more items with a view to progressively substitute the imports of items of equipments, intermediates and raw materials, while it is difficult to assess in exact terms the savings that has accrued to the country as a result of the import substitution drive, the saving at a very conservative estimate would be about Rs. 35 crores a year.

Allocation of Pig Iron to Punjab State.

7830. SHRI MANIBHAI J. PATEL :
SHRI DEVINDER SINGH
GARCHA :

Will the Minister of STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Punjab Government have approached the Joint Plant Committee of the three Steel Plants to allocate at least one lakh tons of pig iron to the State to enable it to meet the minimum requirements of the industry ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) what quantity of pig iron was allotted to the Punjab State last year ; and

(d) the quantity likely to be received by Punjab during the current year ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND HEAVY ENGINEERING (SHRI MOHD. SHAFI