

mands for both the brands of scooters—Vespa (Bajaj), and Lambretta with the result that an individual has to wait for as many as 8 to 10 years and whether such investigation has been carried out to improve upon the situation by raising the production 4 to 10 times more, so that the waiting incumbents may not lose patience;

(b) the production of both the types of scooters; and

(c) whether any new units are being established to raise the production and if so, the main features thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRY (SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD):

(a) Yes, Sir. There is a sizeable pending demand for Bajaj and Lambretta Scooters and the waiting period is still long. Necessary steps have been and are being taken to increase the production of scooters.

(b) Over 60,000 in 1972.

(c) A factory for the manufacture of Scooters with a capacity of 1,00,000 Nos. per annum is being set up in the joint sector with majority Government holding. In addition, additional capacity for 72,000 scooters a year has been licensed. Letters of intent have also been issued for manufacture of 5,46,000 scooters per year.

Raising Production of Fiat Cars

2450. SHRI R. P. YADAV: Will the Minister of HEAVY INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that an individual desirous to have a Fiat car has to wait for 15 to 18 years for getting it after he books it and whether it is not feasible to raise the production by 15 per cent at least, if not more; and

(b) the annual total production of Fiat Cars, and the steps contemplated to raise it?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRY (PROF. SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD).

(a) and (b). According to the information available to the Government orders for Premier President cars which were outstanding on 31st December 1972 number 54,419. Production in 1972 was of the order of 13,703. Steps have been taken to enable the manufacturers to reach the achievable capacity of 14,000 cars a year.

An application from the Company to raise production to the level of 18,000 is under consideration of Government.

Strike by staff of language papers of Punjab

2451. SHRI R. R. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND REHABILITATION be pleased to state.

(a) whether staff of a number of language papers of Punjab were on strike for several weeks recently;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the action, if any, taken by the Central Government to resolve the differences between the employers and employees?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND REHABILITATION (SHRI RAGHUNATHA REDDY): (a) to (c). There was a strike recently by journalists and non-working journalists in 12 language news papers of Jullundur in support of their demand for an increase in their emoluments. The matter falls essentially in the State sphere. According to available information the strike was called off on January 9, 1973 following intervention by the State Industrial Relations Machinery. The Employees' demand for increase in emoluments has been referred by the State Government for adjudication.