

(b) to (d). Purified Terephthalic Acid (PTA) and Dimethyl Terephthalic (DMT) are alternative raw materials for manufacture of polyester. Import of PTA and DMT by polyester units is permitted on merits as per the import policy keeping in view the facilities available for use of these raw materials and with a view to utilise the indigenous DMT to the maximum extent possible.

Working of Coal India

4250. SHRI SOMNATH RATH : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Chairman of Coal India Limited has admitted about the low efficiency of the organisation as reported in the 'Hindustan Times' of 14 November, 1985;

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take to improve the efficiency of the organisation; and

(c) the factors responsible for this ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI VASANT SATHE) : (a) to (c). On the occasion of the completion of a decade of Coal India Limited, the Chairman-cum-Managing Director, Coal India Limited addressed the employees of Coal India Limited and its subsidiaries in the form of an appeal to improve companies' performance and to achieve the objectives for which the coal industry was nationalised. In that appeal he spoke about the various facets of working of the coal industry including the low efficiency in the organisation against the backdrop of objectives set for nationalisation of coal industry. He had also addressed a Press Conference on various issues. The News Papers covered that Press Conference in various ways.

All efforts are being made to increase production and productivity in the coal companies with a view to providing them with a sound financial base as well as to make them fully poised to meet the growing demands of coal in the year to come. Various measures being adopted to increase production and to improve productivity in coal companies include investment in new mines, fuller utilisation of mining capacity

already created, more efficient use and better maintenance of equipment, stricter control of inventory and economy in the use of stores, better use of manpower by controlling absenteeism and enforcing discipline and identification of surplus workers and their re-deployment after suitable training, better availability of scarce inputs like explosives, timber etc. reduction of pit-head stocks by faster movement and more systematic distribution, expeditious and timely completion of new projects and improvement in the law and order situation and control over mafia activities in Bihar-Bengal coalfields.

Payment of Bonus by Hindustan Cables Ltd.

4251. SHRI S. M. BHATTAM : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the public sector undertaking in Hyderabad and Secunderabad areas have been instructed to limit bonus payments to the statutory minimum of 8.33 per cent and in no case it should exceed 20 per cent;

(b) whether in view of such instructions, the Hindustan Cables had to declare a lock-out in October 1985 as per the directions of the Union Government;

(c) whether Government also directed that this undertaking may go in for productivity linked bonus agreements or alternately pay only the statutory minimum; and

(d) whether this has resulted in grave labour unrest in this area ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) :

(a) Public Enterprises, who come within the purview of the Payment of Bonus Act should pay bonus to their employees in accordance with the provisions of the said Act. Enterprises, which do not come within the purview of the Payment of Bonus Act have also been authorised by the Government to pay ex-gratia as if the provisions for the Payment of Bonus Act are applicable to them. Enterprises located in Hyderabad and Secunderabad

are also required to comply with these policy directions. Under the Bonus Act, the minimum payment is 8.33% and the maximum is 20% of wage salary.

(b) The employees' unions of Hindustan Cables Limited demanded ex-gratia at the rate of 20% as against the ex-gratia offered at the rate of 17.5%. This led to industrial unrest. In order to protect the property of the company, the Management declared lockout w.e.f. 06 11 hours on 17.10.1985. As the Union have now agreed to accept the ex-gratia at the rate of 19% of their annual wages for the financial year 1984-85 in full and final settlement of their demand; the said lockout has been lifted w.e.f. 26.10.1985.

(c) The provisions of the Payment of Bonus Act provide an option to the Management as well as to the workmen either to accept bonus based on allocable surplus available for distribution as bonus or they could jointly agree to work out a scheme wherein bonus is linked to increases in productivity. No specific instructions have been issued by Government to the Hindustan Cables Ltd. to introduce a Productivity Linked Bonus scheme.

(d) Does not arise.

Fixation of prices of Maruti spares

4252. SHRI CHINTA MOHAN : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether prices of Maruti spares both imported and indigenous have been drastically slashed as reported in the 'Financial Express' of 31 October, 1985; and

(b) whether Government propose to look into the obvious fraud in fixation of prices of spares both by Maruti and its suppliers, Indian and foreign ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) Maruti Udyog Limited has reduced prices of some spare parts.

(b) No, Sir. The earlier prices were fixed on the basis of the then prevailing procurement prices and the need for higher

inventory. The reduction in spare parts price has become possible because of indigenisation, increased volume of sales and lower procurement prices.

Claims of Engineering Projects (India) Limited on overseas clients

4253. SHRI K. S. RAO : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the amount of penalty levied by the overseas clients in case of each project undertaken abroad and the amount paid by the Engineering Projects (India) Limited so far;

(b) the claims of the Engineering Projects (India) Limited on overseas clients and how far these have been settled;

(c) the provisional or actual profit/loss in the case of each Project of the Engineering Projects (India) Limited in Iraq and Kuwait; and

(d) the reasons for cancellation of letter of intent for hotel project for which it was negotiating with Algeria ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (c). The total accumulated loss of the company as on 31.3.85 is about Rs. 108 crores. Disclosure of the other details is not considered to be in the commercial interest of the Company;

(d) The Algerian Government which had issued a letter of intent to E.P.I. for execution of a hotel project, asked subsequently for reduction in the value of contract. EPI did not agree to reduce the contract value. Hence the letter of intent was cancelled.

Dealers permitted to sell truck chassis in Pondicherry

4254. SHRI P. SHANMUGAM : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the number of dealers permitted to sell truck chassis in the Union Territory of Pondicherry during 1982 to 1985; and