

(e) whether such un-utilised licenses and letters of intent are liable to be cancelled or withdrawn; and

(f) if so, the particulars of the cancelled licences and withdrawn letters of intent?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b). Industrial Group-wise statistics on letters of intent/industrial licences issued/utilised/unutilised, etc. are not maintained. However, under the provisions of the Industries (Development & Regulation) Act, 331 industrial licences (including 46 carry-on-business licences) were granted during the years 1983, 1984 and 1985 to undertakings registered under the MRTP Act. Of these, 1 industrial licence has since been cancelled/revoked.

(c) to (e). During the years 1983 to 1985, 547 letters of intent were issued to undertakings registered under the MRTP Act. If the holder of the letter of intent/industrial licence fails to fulfil the conditions within its validity period, the letter of intent/industrial licence in question is cancelled/revoked by the administrative Ministry concerned. Of the 547 letters of intent granted during 1983 to 1985 to MRTP undertakings, 149 letters of intent have since been converted into industrial licences and 35 have been treated as lapsed/cancelled.

(f) Details of letters of intent/industrial licences cancelled/revoked are regularly published by the Indian Investment Centre in their 'Monthly Newsletter'. Copies of this publication are being sent to Parliament Library regularly.

Delivery of Levy Cement by Factories

3390. SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to the notice of Government that some cement factories

are not delivering levy cement against allotments within the scheduled time and selling the same as non-levy cement;

(b) if so, the number of such factories identified during the current year; and

(c) the action taken in respect of such factories?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There are 24 cement factories in whose cases the shortfall in despatches under levy category as on 31.10.86, has been more than one month's levy obligation.

(c) (i) The matter has been taken up with the Chief Executives of all the major defaulting units to make good entire shortfall by end of December, 1986/January, 1987.

(ii) Directions are also issued under Clause 33 and 3(a) of the Cement Control Order, 1967 to regulate supplies of levy/non-levy cement and the help of the concerned State Governments is sought to ensure compliance of orders.

Short despatches are also reported partly due to slow lifting of cement by the nominees and partly due to non-availability of adequate railway facilities. Following steps have been taken to correct the distortion in supplies under levy category:—

(i) Levy cement is increasingly being moved to non-conventional deficit areas from factories in cases where the conventional markets are not consuming levy cement to the desired level due to sluggishness in demand growth.

(ii) The Railways are immediately approached to step-up wagon

supplies where supplies are started to be slow due to non-availability of sufficient number of wagons.

Concessions to Maruti Udyog Ltd. to Import Components

3391. DR. DATTA SAMANT : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the concessions given to Maruti Udyog Ltd. in customs duty while importing various components, because the fuel efficiency of the Maruti car is upto 1,000 c.c. ;

(b) the total amount of concession thus given to Maruti Udyog Ltd. for the years 1984-85 and 1985-86; and

(c) whether the Premier Automobiles Ltd., Bombay had requested for similar concessions and if so, the reasons for not giving same concessions to Premier Automobiles Ltd. ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC ENTERPRISES IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. K K. TEWARY) :

(a) No concession have been made to Maruti Udyog. Maruti pays the same customs duty as for other fuel efficient cars of higher engine capacity.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Certain concessions on customs and excised duty are allowed for the manufacture of fuel efficient passenger cars provided the vehicle passes the fuel efficiency criteria and is tested by a testing agency for the purpose. The vehicle model 118-NE manufactured by PAL has been declared fuel efficient and the manufacturers are availing concessions in levies.

Supply of Natural Gas by Pipes in Certain Districts of Assam

3392. PROF. PARAG CHALIHA : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have any plans to supply natural gas by laying pipes for domestic use in the oil producing areas of Sibsagar, Jorhat and Dibrugarh districts ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHM DUTT) :

(a) and (b). Oil & Natural Gas Commission has committed to supply five thousand cubic metres of gas per day to Assam Gas Company who, in turn, will distribute this to the domestic consumers in Sibsagar town.

(c) Does not arise.

Patenting Procedure

3393. SHRI MURLI DEORA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the average time taken by the Patent Office for granting the patent ;

(b) the longest period for which a patent application is pending as on October 31, 1986 ; and

(c) The steps proposed by Government to accelerate the pace and how soon it is expected to achieve this ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) On an average 3 years and 10 months.

(b) Longest period is 13 years and six months.

(c) The Controller General of Patents, Designs and Trade Marks has been asked to expedite disposal of applications.