

from the industrial scene. Government do not consider it either feasible or necessary to prevent every sick unit from being closed down or to revive every closed unit. Need for revival of any sick unit is considered in the light of existing policy guidelines, in terms of which banks and financial institutions prepare rehabilitation schemes providing various concessions, reliefs and other forms of financial and other assistance where any industrial unit is considered potentially viable. Government also provide such fiscal and other reliefs as may be considered necessary in specific cases as a part of the rehabilitation package formulated by banks and financial institutions. The following specific schemes have been announced by the Government for assisting sick units :

1. Grant of tax benefits on merger of non viable companies with the healthy once under Section 72A of the Income Tax Act.
2. Margin money scheme for sick small scale industrial units.
3. Relaxation of levy quota for sick cement units. Re-exemption from Paper Control Order for sick paper units.

(b) and (c). Government have been receiving suggestions from various State Governments for take over of sick units. All such requests are examined in the light of Governments policy.

[English]

Scarcity of Soda Ash

1019. SHRI SUDHIR ROY : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) Whether Government have received a telegram from Raniganj Chamber of Commerce, West Bengal about the serious crisis facing the small scale detergent and glass industries due to scarcity of soda ash which is the main raw material for these industries; and

(b) if so, the steps Government are taking to supply soda ash to these small scale industries ?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Under the existing Import Policy, import of Soda Ash under Open General Licence (OGL) is allowed to the actual users. Government have recently substantially reduced duty on import of Soda Ash to enable the actual users to import the same at a reasonable price. Soda Ash manufacturing units have also been advised to give priority to meeting the requirements of actual users, including those in the small scale sector.

Nationalised Units

1020. SHRI ZAINAL ABEDIN : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of units that have been nationalized by the States and the Union Government separately; and

(b) the fate of the remaining units ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN) : (a) There were 55 undertakings as on 31.12.1981 whose managements had been taken over under Industries (Development and Regulation) Act. Subsequently, one undertaking was taken over under the Act in 1982. No new undertaking has been taken over since then. Of these, 8 units have been nationalised by the Central Government and 14 by the State Government.

(b) 33 industrial undertakings are still being managed under the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act. Final disposition of these units will be decided in the light of the policy guidelines issued by the Government in October, 1981.

Sale of Food Units by M/s. Hindustan Lever Ltd.

1021. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry had held that the deal proposed by M/s. Hindustan Lever Limited relating to the transfer by sale of its vanaspati, dairy and animal feed units to Lipton India Limited required clearance under the MRTP Act;

(b) whether M/s. Hindustan Lever Limited refused to comply with the aforesaid requirement on the ground that the com-