

(b) whether a proposal to introduce legislation to protect the small units is under consideration of Government; and

(c) the details of the steps proposed to be taken to help the ancillary industries ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Government has already issued guidelines to public sector undertakings for promotion of ancillary industries. In order to meet the sophisticated needs of parent units by producing quality goods at competitive prices, Government proposes to raise the limit of investment in plant and machinery of ancillary units to the level of Rs. 45 lakhs from the existing ceiling of Rs. 25 lakhs.

Acquisition of Oil-field Equipment for Oil Exploration

1118. **SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK :** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government have a proposal for the acquisition of oil-field equipment for the country's accelerated oil exploration programme;

(b) if so, the additional oil-field equipment proposed to be purchased for the above purpose and the total value thereof; and

(c) the steps taken to avoid delay in implementing the above proposal ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA) : (a) to (c). According to the 1985-86 plan, oil-field equipment valuing about Rs. 2097 crores is to be acquired. Individual proposals for release of foreign exchange come of the Government after the purchase is finalised on the basis of global tendering. These proposals are processed expeditiously.

Public Sector Units/Undertaking Manufacturing Defence Equipments

1119. **SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSHI :** Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of well-equipped public sector units/undertakings are manufacturing sophisticated defence equipments, especially the National Instruments Limited, West Bengal; and

(b) if so, the reasons why the Ministry do not tie those units with the Ordnance Unit for a uniform administration and effective growth of productivity and precision etc. to save to heavy expenditure ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI P.V. NARASIMHA RAO) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There are nine public sector units under the administrative control of the Ministry of Defence, who contribute a substantial share of defence requirements.

In addition, the capacity available in the Civil Sector is also being exploited to meet Defence requirements. Since the major share of their capacities is utilised for manufacture of stores for Civil market, it is not considered necessary to bring them under the administrative control of Ministry of Defence.

As regards National Instruments Ltd., Calcutta is concerned, at present Defence items account for only about 12% of their present production.

Eligibility of Howrah to be declared as a backward District

1120. **SHRI PRIYA RANJAN DAS MUNSHI :** Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the criteria for declaring a district or zone backward in industry;

(b) whether in this light, Howrah District is eligible to be declared as an industrially backward district; and

(c) if not, whether Government propose to set up a committee to find reasons why once India's largest industrial zone Howrah is now collapsing in industry and to suggest remedial measures ?