

(b) and (c) During January—June, 1985, the number of foreign collaboration approvals was 440 compared to 336 during the corresponding period of 1984, thus recording an increase of 31 percent.

(d) The Government have been taking several measures to stimulate industrial production through appropriate changes in industrial licensing and import policies, as well as through monetary and fiscal measures and improvement in infrastructure.

#### Setting up of Energy Development Council

2293. SHRI B. V. DESAI :

SHRI P. M. SAYEED : Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Govt. have decided to set up an Energy Development Council to advise the administration about generation and distribution of power ;

(b) if so, the main functions of the Council ;

(c) the names of its members and whether any representation has been given to the State Governments in this council ;

(d) if so, the details thereof ; and

(e) the extent to which formation of the council would help in better administration between the States and the Centre in regard to power distribution ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN) : (a) to (e) The composition and functions etc. of the proposed Energy Development Council are under consideration.

#### Production Distribution of Soda Ash

2294. SHRI B. V. DESAI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether a group of soda ash manufacturers and consumers of soda ash met on 31 August, 1985 to look into the demand of the commodity, its distribution as well as

projected production and allocation based on the guidelines drawn up by the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers for soda ash ;

(b) whether the group has submitted its report to the Government ;

(c) if so, the details of the same ; and

(d) the extent to which the Ministry has accepted the recommendations ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO-CHEMICALS (SHRI R. K. JAICHANDRA SINGH) : (a) to (d) A meeting of the Sub-Committee on Monitoring of supplies of Soda Ash was held on 30-8-1985 to review the implementation of the guidelines on distribution of Soda Ash by the manufacturers to various consumers. These guidelines were issued by Government on 18-7-85. This Sub-Committee includes representatives of both manufacturers' and consumers' besides Government Officials and meets from time to time to review the distribution of Soda Ash.

#### German Delegation Meeting with Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry and Indian Engineering Industry

2295. SHRI P. M. SAYEED : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether a delegation representing Federation of German Industries visited India recently to hold discussions with the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry and Association of Indian Engineering Industry ;

(b) if so, the outcome of these discussions ;

(c) the agreements that have been reached between our Government and West German delegation for increasing exports of manufactured goods with a view to bringing down the gap between imports and exports ; and

(d) the equity participation allowed by Government to the small and medium sector industries in view of India's liberalised economic policy ?