

the public sector executives only, in India and abroad. BPE's endeavour to provide training to the public sector executives of different management areas although not adequate in relation to the requirements, is not insignificant.

#### Research and Development in Public Enterprises

2115. SHRI Y. S. MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the present arrangements for research and development in public enterprises;

(b) the total expenditure on this account and how it compares with the total expenditure; and

(c) the specific measures taken to ensure that greater attention is paid to improving research and development in public enterprises to absorb and update the technology so as to achieve self reliance in this field in due course ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO) : (a) to (c). Government have taken up a number of steps for R&D work in public enterprises. For coordinating R&D activities, High Level Standing Scientific Research Committees/Scientific Advisory Groups have been set up by the administrative Ministries. These activities are pursued in close interaction with various agencies like Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR), Indian Institutes of Technology, National Institute of Science and other National agencies. In addition to this, many of the public enterprises have set up their own R&D units within their enterprises. R&D projects in the thrust areas are formulated by technical groups drawn from public sector undertakings and National agencies. Depending upon the nature of the projects, these are implemented by individual undertakings/organisations or through joint participation by undertakings, Laboratories and Educational institutions. Through these in-house R&D efforts and absorption/adoption of imported technologies, the public enterprises have been able to develop a strong technology base. Details of expenditure on R&D pro-

grammes in various public enterprises are available at Page-180 of Volume-I of the "Public Enterprises Survey 1986-87" laid on the Table of the House on 25th February, 1988.

#### Improvement in Profitability and Productivity of Public Enterprises

2116. SHRI Y. S. MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the extent to which the transfer of the Bureau of Public Enterprises to the Industry Ministry and setting up of the Department of Public Enterprises has helped in improving the working of public sector undertakings;

(b) whether public sector are getting better guidance in their working; and

(c) what is the improvement in the profitability and productivity of public enterprises, details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO) : (a) The overall performance of public sector undertakings has improved over the last three years. The improvement is on account of various factors. How far the transfer of Bureau of Public Enterprises to the Ministry of Industry and setting up of the Department of Public Enterprises have helped in improved performance of public enterprises cannot be assessed.

(b) Public sector enterprises continue to get the required guidance in their working

(c) Details of performance of public sector enterprises are available in the Public Enterprises Survey 1986-87 placed on the Table of the House on 25.2.1988. The profits during 1986-87 are an all time high.

#### Functioning of Controller of Explosives

2117. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) the layout of the office of the Controller of Explosives of India and its

regional and sub-regional offices in the country, with details of their functions ;

(b) whether any tenure of posting of officers has been laid down and if so, the details thereof, and how many officers have overstayed the laid down tenure with reasons and steps taken to move them ; and

(c) whether a licence granted by the Controller can be suspended by the licensing department of the police-concerned and if so, under what circumstances and rule and how many licencees were restrained so far during the last five years by the police with details ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) The Department of Explosives is headed by the Chief Controller of Explosives and its headquarters is at Nagpur. It has four circle offices viz. East Circle (Calcutta), West Circle (Bombay), North Circle (Agra) and South Circle (Madras), each headed by a Deputy Chief Controller of Explosives. The East Circle has five sub-circle offices located at Guwahati, Asansol, Hazaribagh, Rourkela and Gomia. The West Circle has two sub-circle offices located at Baroda and Bhandara. The North Circle has three sub-circle offices located at Bhopal, Chandigarh and Jaipur. The South Circle has four sub-circle offices located at Mangalore, Hyderabad, Sivakasi and Ernakulam. The sub-circle offices are generally headed by a Controller of Explosives.

The main functions of sub-circle offices are inspection of premises, investigation of accidents, assistance to police in various matters related to safety etc. The circle offices look after the administration of various acts and rules administered by the Department of Explosives, grant of licences under Explosives Rules, Petroleum Rules, Gas Cylinder Rules, Calcium Carbide Rules, etc. The office of the Chief Controller of Explosives deals with policy matters, grant of licences other than those granted by the circle offices; approval of proposals for fabrication of explosives.

vans, pressure vessels, gas cylinders, valves, regulators, etc. The Department is also associated with the Bureau of Indian Standards, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Railways, Ports, etc. in matters relating to safe storage and transport of hazardous products.

(b) The Department of Explosives have not laid down any tenure of posting of their officers. As far as possible, keeping in view the exigencies of work, the Department follows the instructions issued by the Government in this behalf. Nine officers have been working for more than five years at their present place of posting having regard to the exigencies of work.

(c) No, Sir.

[*Translation*]

#### Increase in prices of Maruti Cars

2118 PROF. NIRMALA KUMARI SHAKTAWAT : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Maruti Udyog Limited is planning for manufacturing big size cars with the capacity of its engine 1000 c.c. instead of 800 c.c. ;

(b) the time by which it will be available in the market and its estimated cost ;

(c) whether the prices of Maruti cars and Gypsy have been increasing due to increase in the price of Yen ; and

(d) if so, whether Government have prepared any scheme to reduce the prices?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO) : (a) and (b). A proposal submitted by Maruti Udyog Limited to manufacture 1000 cc 3-Box car, in addition to the existing 800 cc car, is under consideration of Government.

(c) The prices of Maruti cars and Gypsy have been increasing both on account of depreciation of the Rupee against Yen and US Dollar and increase in fiscal levies.

(d) While the pricing of vehicles is a commercial matter to be decided by the