

B and W shells by Bharat Electronics Ltd. to meet the growing demands of the industry;

(b) if so, the estimated cost of this expansion programme and how it is to be met;

(c) whether technical know-how and equipment will be required to be imported to implement the expansion programme; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI) : (a) BEL has referred a proposal to the Government for increasing the annual capacity of manufacture of Black and White glass bulbs at its Talaja unit from 1 million to 2.2 million bulbs of 20" size or 4.3 million bulbs of 14" size (exclusively), or a capacity in between these two figures for a product-mix of both 20" and 14" size. Decision has not yet been taken on this proposal.

(b) The estimated cost of this expansion is about Rs. 18 crores, inclusive of foreign exchange of Rs. 12.82 crores. BEL has proposed that the expenditure be met through internal accruals of the company and borrowings from financial institutions.

(c) and (d). No import of technical know-how is involved in the proposal, but equipment would require to be imported.

Production of Alcohol from Casava Plant Starch

1178. SHRI Y.S. MAHAJAN : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether scientists of the Regional Research Laboratory, Trivandrum have developed a process by which alcohol can be continuously produced from casava plant starch;

(b) if so, how the quality and cost of production of alcohol by this process compares with the production of alcohol from molasses; and

(c) whether large scale production of alcohol is possible from the casava plant starch or any other cheaper raw materials ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K.R. NARAYANAN) : (a) A process, by which alcohol can be produced continuously from casava plant starch as raw material, is under development at Regional Research Laboratory (RRL), Trivandrum.

(b) Related parameters on quality and cost of production with the process are under evaluation.

(c) Large scale production trials are required to establish economic viability of the process.

Joint Venture of BEL with Samtel India

1179. SHRI Y.S. MAHAJAN :

SHRI SHARAD DIGHE :

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN :

PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE :

SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL :

SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA :

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Bharat Electronics Ltd. has entered into a collaboration agreement with Samtel India and Corning Glass Works of USA for a joint venture for the Talaja glass shell project in Maharashtra;

(b) if so, the terms and conditions of the joint venture;

(c) the financial arrangement for financing the project and how much foreign exchange will be required and how it will be met;

(d) whether the agreement provides for export of products or these will be meant for use in the country; and

(e) if so, the percentage of exports and who will arrange for the exports ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI CHINTAMANI

PANIGRAHI) : (a) BEL has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with Samtel India and Corning Glass Works of USA for bringing the Taloja project in Maharashtra under a joint venture with these companies as partners.

(b) and (c). The MOU is presently under examination in the Department of Defence Production and Supplies. It would not be in the public interest to disclose its details at this juncture.

(d) and (e). The MOU does not specifically provide for export of the glass bulbs to be produced at the Taloja unit as these are presently meant for utilisation in the country. After the indigenous needs are fully met, the unit may find it possible to export also.

Inclusion of 'Ghatwals' in Scheduled Tribes List

1180. SHRI RADHAKANTA DIGAL : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether 'Ghatwals' in Bihar are demanding tribal status;

(b) whether Government have taken any decision to include them in the Scheduled Tribes list;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the likely time by when a decision would be taken in this regard ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUMATI ORAON) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The comments received from the State Government of Bihar are being considered in the context of the proposed comprehensive revision of the lists of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

(d) No specific time-limit can be specified as any amendment in the existing lists can be done only by an Act of Parliament in view of Articles 341 (2) and 342 (2) of the Constitution.

Employment Potential in A and N Islands

1181. SHRI RADHAKANTA DIGAL : Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken some short term measures to raise employment potential in Andaman and Nicobar Islands; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. The short-term measures include :

(i) Implementation of 7th Plan schemes to be speeded up;

(ii) 2 new ITIs be set up;

(iii) UT Administrations to sponsor candidates for apprentice training schemes on the mainland;

(iv) Coaching/guidance schemes be started which will enable the qualified Islanders to compete favourably for available employment opportunities;

(v) In Port Blair some pre-selection training centres to be set up.

(vi) Efforts to absorb Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe candidates against reserved quota in national banking service and other spheres.

U.T. Administration is working out the detailed implementation plan for these short-term measures.

Charge on India for Involvement in Coup in Fiji

1182. SHRIMATI JAYANTI PATNAIK : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a news report published in "The Australian" an Australian Newspaper that India was heavily involved in recent moves towards a coup in Fiji and that arms recently seized by the Australian authorities in Sydney were sent by India;

(b) whether any formal protest has been lodged against this baseless charge ; and

(c) if so, when and whether it has been investigated as to how that news has been reported in the paper ?