

(b) A letter of intent is issued with an initial validity period of one year and further extensions can also be granted on adequate justification. After the entrepreneur fulfils the conditions of the letter of intent, the same is converted into an industrial licence. The initial validity period of an industrial licence is two years and further extensions can also be granted on justifiable grounds. It generally takes 3 to 4 years for an industrial project to fructify. Actual gestation period, however, varies from project to project. None of the above industrial licences issued for West Bengal during the last two years has been reported as cancelled.

(c) No separate study has been made to determine the causes of industrial sickness in the State of West Bengal. However, according to studies already undertaken by the RBI on all-India basis, a number of causes, both internal and external, often operating in combination, have been responsible for industrial sickness in the country. Some of the principal causes are faulty planning, management deficiencies, inefficient financial control, diversion of resources, inadequate attention to R and D, obsolescence of technology and machinery, poor industrial relations, inadequacy of demand, shortage of raw materials and other inputs and infrastructural constraints.

Legislation to Stop Manufacture of Spurious Automotive Spare Parts

4265. SHRI KAMLA PRASAD SINGH: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that majority of the automotive spare parts sold in the country are either sub-standard or spurious ;

(b) whether these products penetrate into the market by over larger and more lucrative trade margins and by avoiding excise duties and sales tax ;

(c) whether the solution of problem lies in introducing stricter legislation making manufacture of spurious and sub-standard items a cognisable offence and a thorough review of the tax structure that at present gives the makers of spurious and sub-standard items a cost advantage ; and

(d) if not, the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN) : (a) Automobile Components Manufacturers Association have brought to the notice of the Government regarding sale of spurious and sub-standard automotive spare parts in the market.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) Government have already examined the question of making offences of falsification of trade marks etc., cognizable offence. However, it has not been considered necessary to make offences of infringement of trade marks in respect of automobile parts as cognizable offence since existing provisions are considered adequate. Besides, with a view to discourage the sale and manufacture of spurious and sub-standard automotive parts, Government have taken steps to augment the production of quality components through delicensing of the industry and also through modernisation and introduction of latest technology in this sector. Government have also extended certain fiscal concessions to the auto ancillary industry to encourage the production of quality components.

Survey of Industry to Determine Energy Consumption

4266. DR. G. VIJAYA RAMA RAO : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the National Productivity Council has undertaken a survey of industry to determine energy consumption and audit and if so, the salient findings thereof (News Today, 22nd July, 1955) ; and

(b) whether it is a fact that Industry's energy consumption is one of the highest in the world for coal mining, steel and aluminium manufacture and transmission losses etc. and if so, corrective steps taken/proposed ?