

3. Out of these districts, 101 districts/'areas' (@6 districts/'areas' from each of the States identified as industrially backward and 3 districts/'areas' from each of the other States and Union Territories) have been selected to qualify also for the Central Scheme of Investment Subsidy. Further, applications from small scale industries in these selected districts/'areas' for import of raw materials and components, and also for machines on hire-purchase terms, are considered on a priority basis under the current Import Policy and under the hire-purchase scheme of National Small Industries Corporation.

4. Pudukotiah (Pudukkottai) district of Tamil Nadu State has already been selected as industrially backward to qualify for concessional finance. Further, one of the 3 'areas' of Tamil Nadu State selected to qualify for the Central scheme of Investment Subsidy includes 4 Talukas of Pudukkottai district, (viz., Pudukkottai, Thirumayam, Alamgudi and Kulathur Taluks).

News Item captioned "Electronics Licensing: MNCS by passing curbs"

5023. SHRI G. M. BANATWALLA: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the front page report in the newspaper "The Economic Times" dated the 14th July, 1977 by its special correspondent under the caption "Electronics licensing: MNCS by passing curbs" regarding serious loopholes in the licensing rules which multinational companies exploit to the detriment of small-scale units; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI MORARJI DESAI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Two cases have come to notice and show-cause notices are being issued in both cases.

Purchase of Satellite

5024. SHRI MOHAN LAL PIPIL: Will the Minister of SPACE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of India have recently decided to purchase a satellite; and

(b) if so, the estimated cost thereof, the purpose it is likely to serve and the country from which it is proposed to be purchased?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI MORARJI DESAI): (a) Yes sir. Government has approved implementation of the Indian National Satellite (INSAT) System.

(b) The total cost of the project has been estimated at Rs. 173 crores. Initially the system will be used mainly for telecommunications and meteorology. The choice of a Satellite, cost and from where it is to be purchased are yet to be finalised.

Bridge over Ganga River

5025. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the late Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri had laid foundation stone of a bridge over Ganga river at Allahabad in 1965 and the estimated cost was Rs. 3.75 crores;

(b) whether an expenditure of more than 2 crores of rupees has been shown thereon upto 31st March, 1970 by the department;

(c) whether no work had been started for the construction of the bridge upto 31st March, 1970 and construction work was not completed till now and an expenditure of more than 7 crores of rupees has already been incurred thereon;