

**Funds of the Canteen Stores Department**

3833. SHRIMATI AHILYA P. RANGNEKAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state whether till 31st March, 1977, the funds of the Canteen Stores Department were maintained separately and only merged with the Consolidated Fund of India from 1st April, 1977?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM): Yes, Sir.

**Survey Conducted by Indian Institute of Economics**

3834. SHRI A. MURUGESAN: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a survey conducted by the Indian Institute of Economics has discovered a high mortality rate of small scale industries in South India;

(b) the reasons for such a high mortality; and

(c) whether in view of the emphasis of the present Government on the rapid development of small scale industries the concrete measures proposed to be taken to make small scale industries viable?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (KUMARI ABHA MAITI): (a) No, Sir. A survey conducted by the Indian Institute of Economics, Hyderabad had 'closed units' identified during the Census of Small Scale Industries, as the frame of reference for investigation.

(b) The important reasons for mortality given in the Survey are lack of finance, raw material shortage and management problem.

(c) The concrete measures taken are provision in the Budget of the Ministry, of seed/margin money and larger provision of loan in the budget of the Rural Industries Projects. In

the States, Coordination Committee have also been constituted for examining the problems of sick units and for helping them to become viable.

**Use of Thorium Reactor Fuel**

3835. SHRI S. D. SOMASUNDARAM: Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Canada has developed a reactor using Thorium directly as a fuel;

(b) whether in view of the considerable reserves of Thorium in our country, Government propose to speed up research and development for using Thorium as reactor fuel in our country also; and

(c) if so, the time bound plan in this regard?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI MORARJI DESAI): (a) According to available information, Canada has undertaken studies on the use of Thorium in Heavy Water reactors but the developmental work on this has, not yet been completed.

(b) and (c) Studies are underway. A Fast Breeder Test Reactor and other research and development facilities are under construction at the Reactor Research Centre at Kalpakkam, near Madras and further experiments on Thorium will be started as soon as these facilities become available.

**New Brand of Cigarettes**

3836. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEYA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) is it a fact that new brands of cigarettes have been marketed during last five years, which are new Articles, without the approval of Licensing