

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI P. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) and (b). It is presumed that the reference is to the setting up of captive power plants.

In April, 1977, the Gujarat Electricity Board were advised that there was 'No objection' to the installation of an indigenously procured 2000 KW back pressure turbo-generating set by M/s. Atul Products Ltd., District Bulsar for an estimated expenditure of Rs. 50 lakhs. Proposals for setting up captive power generation plants for certain public sector units are still under consideration.

Import of Power Generation Equipment

584. **SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY :** Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Bank has suggested the import of power generation equipment on a turn-key basis by India ;

(b) Whether Government have placed the orders for the import of the same ; and

(c) if so, the details of the same ?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI P. RAMACHANDRAN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) . Do not arise.

National Permits For Lorries

585. **SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY :** Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of permits issued for the lorries so far under the National Permit Scheme, State-wise and how many requests for permits were turned down ;

(b) whether Government propose to consider to lower down the taxes levied on the National Permits and issue of more permits in order to have speedy movement of essential commodities ; and

(c) whether Government proposed to issue National Permits to unemployed graduates and rural unemployed ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI CHAND RAM) : (a) The information

required is being collected from State Governments and Union Territory Administrations and will be laid on the table of the Sabha, when received.

(b) The National Permit Scheme for Road Transport already provides for recovery of tax (composite fee) from the vehicles a covered by such permits at lower rates in all these States and Union Territories other than the "Home" State. There is no proposal under consideration to further reduce the amount of tax in respect of such vehicles.

At the last meeting of the Transport Development Council, representatives of some States wanted the quota of National Permits for their territories to be increased. The Council recommended that the request may be considered further. Action on this recommendation is being initiated.

(c) The guidelines drawn up by the Central Government for grant of National Permits already include provision for reservation of upto 25% of the permits to new entrepreneurs including ex-Army personnel and *enemployed drivers*. The question of modification in the guidelines was discussed at the meeting of TDC, mentioned above. The Council recommended that, subject to reservations for Scheduled Castes/Scheduled Tribes and ex-servicemen to be provided by amendment of the Motor Vehicles Act and preference being given to owner drivers the relevant item in the existing guidelines may be deleted and the matter left to be a determined by the States themselves. This recommendation has been brought to the notice of the State Governments for necessary action.

Setting up of Watch Factory in Dharmapuri Tamil Nadu

586. **SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY :** Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Dharmapuri District in Tamil Nadu has been declared as a backward district ; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to set up a public sector Watch Factory there ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (KUMARI ABHA MAITI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A Hindustan Machine Tools assisted watch assembly unit is being set up at Ooty in Tamil Nadu. The establishment of more such units in Tamil Nadu,