

rural industry is at the verge of closure, if so, action taken thereon, and

(b) whether the import of paraffin wax is time consuming and if so, desirability of raising the existing allotment of paraffin wax to Tamil Nadu?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI H N BAHUGUNA) (a) and (b) Under the provisions of the Paraffin Wax (Supply, Distribution and Price Fixation) Order, 1972 the 'Competent Authority' (usually the Director of Industries) of the States/Union Territories is only competent to allot paraffin wax to the actual users under their respective jurisdictions in accordance with the guide-lines laid down in the said Order. The Government of India do not make any direct allocation of paraffin wax to any actual users in the country. The Erode Batik Printers Association, Erode was advised accordingly.

The yearly allocations of paraffin wax to the States are made on the basis of total expected availability of wax in a particular year and the actual past wax upliftment performance of each State. The Digboi Refinery of Assam Oil Company Ltd is the main source for production of paraffin wax in the country. The production of paraffin wax at the Refinery is stagnant for the last few years. As the demand for paraffin wax has been increasing, exports of paraffin wax which were taking place till 1976 have been stopped, with the objective of augmenting the availability of paraffin wax for meeting the domestic demand. With a view to further supplement indigenous availability the Import Policy for 1977-78 has been amended to provide for canalised imports of paraffin wax.

No delay is anticipated in positioning paraffin wax in the country provided the customers register their requirements appropriately with M/s Balmer Lawrie and Company Calcutta who have been appointed the canalising agency for this purpose.

Studies are presently under way by Madras Refineries Limited and Indian Oil Corporation for the manufacture of paraffin wax in the Madras and Barauni Refineries.

Until the capacity for manufacture of paraffin wax in the country is increased by setting up of the proposed unit in Madras or Barauni it is hoped that canalised imports of paraffin wax would lead to elimination of shortages and improve the availability of paraffin wax to actual users.

Indane Gas Distributionship to Apna Bazar Central Consumers Cooperative Stores Ltd Junagadh (Gujarat)

1762 **SHRI DHARMASINHBHAI PATEL** Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state

(a) whether Apna Bazar Central Consumers Cooperative Stores Ltd Junagadh (Gujarat) has demanded the distributionship of Indane gas and if so when the demand had been made and the details thereof,

(b) the action taken so far or proposed to be taken by Government in this regard, and

(c) the reasons for delay in sanctioning this?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI H N BAHUGUNA) (a) to (c) Apna Bazar Central Consumers' Cooperative Stores Limited, Junagadh (Gujarat) had applied to the Indian Oil Corporation in November 1976 for an Indane distributorship but due to inadequate product availability and limited potential at Junagadh appointment of additional Indane distributorship there was not considered feasible.

Absorption of Apprentices

1763 **SHRI GANGADHAR APPA BURANDE** Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state

(a) whether Government are considering to absorb all the apprentices

who had qualified in a written test in June;

- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
(c) if not, the reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN
THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
(SHRI SHEO NARAIN) (a) No

(b) Does not arise.

(c) 50 per cent of the vacancies arising upto 31-3-78 are to be filled by Act Apprentices trained in clerical trades. The number of such apprentices on the Northern Railway where a written test was held in June 1977, is more than the number of vacancies available for this purpose

Promotional avenues for Hindi-cum English Stenographers

1764 SHRI DHARM VIR VASISHT:
Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are some ex-cadre posts of Hindi-cum-English stenographers in Vidhi Sahitya Prakashan and official languages wing of the Ministry who have the same scale of pay as of the uni-lingual stenographers in the Central Secretariat;

(b) whether there are no promotional avenues for these stenographers; and

(c) whether the Government have under consideration any proposal for revising their scales of pay or any other relief or bringing them under Central Stenographers Service for purposes of promotion?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN
THE MINISTRY OF LAW JUSTICE
AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI
NARSINGH YADAV): (a) All the posts of stenographers in the Official Languages Wing and Vidhi Sahitya Prakashan are excluded from the Central Secretariate Stenographers' Service. The incumbents of these posts are required

to know English Stenography and type-writing and also stenography and type-writing in Hindi or a regional language. The pay scale of these posts is the same as that of Group 'C' Stenographers of the Central Secretariat Stenographers' Service.

(b) and (c). The Ministry of Home Affairs have issued orders on 15-10-77 that a selection grade in the pay scale of Rs 650-30-740-35-880-E B.-40-960 should be introduced with effect from 1-10-77 for Grade 'C' Stenographers in CSSS in view of the acute stagnation in the grade. The question of extending the benefit of these orders to the stenographers in the Official Languages Wing and the Vidhi Sahitya Prakashan will be considered.

Implementation of Child Marriages Restraint Act and Dowry Prohibition Act

1765 SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Child Marriage Restraint Act and the Dowry Prohibition Act have not proved effective enough in the country.

(b) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to amend them and make them effective; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN
THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE
AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI
NARSINGH YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir

(b) and (c). Proposals to amend the two Acts with a view to making them more effective are under consideration. So far as the Child Marriage Restraint Act is concerned, a Bill to amend that Act to increase the minimum age of marriage from fifteen to sixteen for females and from eighteen to twenty-one for males, is likely to be introduced in the current session of Parliament.