

(a) Under various Grants-in-aid schemes, research and development projects are framed out to Universities, IITs and other Research Institutes. The financial support provided under these schemes is utilised by Universities, IITs etc. for appointing research staff and for equipments and contingencies. The Ministry of Defence has supported projects to the extent of about Rs. 5 crores under the Defence Research and Development Organisation and the Aeronautics R&D Board grants-in-aid schemes over the last five years and of about Rs. 4 crores under the Research & Training scheme (under the Air Defence Ground Environment System Plan) since 1971. The National Radar Council of the Department of Electronics with which Ministry of Defence is closely associated has supported projects to the extent of Rs. 1.45 crores so far. The research projects farmed out are of relevance to and are monitored by the corresponding Defence R&D Laboratories Establishments.

(b) Financial support is provided by the Ministry of Defence to some of the IITs, Universities and other Institutes for conducting courses at post graduate level for the training of Defence personnel—both civilian and Service Officers. In addition, officers, both service and civilian, are deputed for training in some of the specialised courses being conducted by the Universities, IITs etc.

(c) Financial support is also provided to the Universities and Research Institutes for holding Seminars/Symposia in different technical areas of interest to defence. It is expected that such seminars/symposia will bring about a closer involvement of the Indian Universities and other Research Institutes with defence problem.

(d) Scientists/Engineers from Universities/IITs etc. are appointed as Consultants/Experts on project monitoring/steering groups and for finding specific solutions.

Manufacturing Spares in Spaces in Private Sector

1201. SHRI P. K. KODIYAN: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to call a Conference of industrialists to discuss about proposal for manufacturing spares for defence production in private sector; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI JAGJIVAN RAM): (a) and (b). A Conference was arranged by the Department of Defence Supplies at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi, on the 14th and 15th February, 1978. The Conference was attended by representatives of Defence Departmental Factories, Defence Public Sector Undertakings, Government organisations concerned and representatives from the Civil sector industries, both Public and Private. The purpose of the Conference was to discuss ways and means of availing, in greater degree, of the growing capacity in the civil sector—both Public and Private for the manufacture of items, such as spares, accessories, components and parts, which are either not manufactured in the Public Sector Factories or whose production needs to be supplemented, so as to minimise the country's dependence on imports and accelerate the pace of indigenisation and self reliance in Defence. This will be, as at present, subject to dominant role of departmental and public sector Industries of the Defence Ministry.

Strike by the Workers of Rajasthan Atomic Power Plant, Kota

1202. SHRI SHANKERSINHJI VAGHELA: Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the workers of Rajasthan atomic power plant and heavy water project at Rawatbhat, near Kota were on strike

for quite a long period during 1977;

(b) the period for which they remained on strike and what were their demands;

(c) the extent of loss suffered due to the strike of workers there; and

(d) the extent to which the demands of workers have been met?

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

(b) The workers were on strike from September 8, 1977 to January 6, 1978. The demands submitted by a Sangharsh Samiti (Action Committee) consisting of representatives of the recognised union and an unrecognised union were (i) restoration of project allowance, (ii) declaration of permanency of the employees, (iii) night duty allowance, radiation allowance, production allowance and bonus, (iv) stoppage of retrenchment, (v) provision of entitled accommodation, (vi) introduction of new grades on the basis of those existing in ONGC and RSEB, (vii) stoppage of giving work to contractors, (viii) provision of stone wall and pukka roofings instead of asbestos sheet roofing and (ix) provision of uniform service conditions for all the employees.

(c) The loss in terms of revenue was around Rs. 5 lakhs per day and the loss in terms of power generation was 2.85 million units per day.

(d) The Sangharsh Samiti is not a recognised body. Discussions had been held earlier with the recognised union—the Rajasthan Anushakti Pariyojana Karmachari Sangh—on the charter of demands submitted by that union which included the nine demands put forth by the Sangharsh Samiti. The Assistant Labour Commissioner (Central) Kota held conciliation proceedings on the demands of the Sangharsh Samiti which, however, resulted in failure as most of the demands put forth by the strikers are unreasonable and beyond what is per-

missible under Government policy. However, additional quarters have been taken up for construction and a programme for modification of certain temporary quarters into permanent/semi-permanent ones has been drawn up. 50 per cent of the posts existing in the operation and maintenance group for more than three years are being converted into permanent ones for confirming eligible employees whose services are required on a long term basis.

Increase in the price of Cotton

1203. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the stock of cotton has exceeded the estimate; and

(b) if so, the reasons for the increase in the retail price of cotton in the market?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (KUMARI ABHA MAITI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

‘टेलको’ में ट्रक चैसिस की उत्पादन क्षमता

1204. श्री एम० ए० हनान अलहाज : क्या उद्योग मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) टी०ई०एल०सी०ओ० (टेलको) में 1210-ई ट्रक चैसिस की वार्षिक उत्पादन क्षमता क्या है;

(ख) क्या यह सच है कि बाजार में ट्रक चैसिस की कमी प्रबंधकों द्वारा अपने आप की गई कमी है; और

(ग) इस कमी को दूर करने के लिए सरकार क्या प्रयास कर रही है?