

### Smuggling of Watches

1409. SHRI K. A. RAJAN: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the demand for watches has been much more than the indigenous production;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the smuggling of watches has re-emerged/ is likely to re-emerge as a result of the wide gap between the demand and supply and also because of the high cost of indigenous manufactured watches; and

(d) if so, what measures are proposed to be taken to check the smuggling?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI ABHA MAITI): (a) and (b). No precise estimate can realistically be made of consumer items like wrist watches. There has been varying estimates of local demand of wrist watches. A Task Force on Watch Industry constituted in the Ministry of Industry has broadly estimated the current demand of the wrist watches as 6 to 6.5 million numbers which may increase to 8 to 8.5 million numbers by 1981-82. Total indigenous production of wrist watches (including from assembly of imported components) in 1977 was around 3.1 million numbers as against the production of 1.4 million numbers in 1976. The production during the period January-June, 1978 has been around 2.4 million numbers.

(c) Recent seizures of watches and intelligence reports received by the Government indicate that smuggling of watches continues. This can, however, largely be attributed to the craze for foreign-made goods amongst consumers.

(d) Customs field formations are alive to the situation and suitable

steps are taken to combat the smuggling of watches. Alongside these preventive steps, continuous efforts are being made to maintain continuous increase in indigenous availability of wrist watches at reasonable prices.

### Official Groups set up to study Coal Situation

1410. SHRI NATVERLAL B. PARMAR: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had set up official groups to study the various aspects of the coal situation including production, marketing and distribution; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

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

(b) Does not arise.

### States' Comments on Sixth Plan

1411. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the suggestions from the State Governments on the basis of guidelines given by the Central Government for consideration of Draft Sixth Plan by NDC have been received from all States;

(b) if so, names of the States who have furnished such suggestions;

(c) whether a number of States have not accepted the Centre's guidelines; and

(d) if so, names of those States?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI MORARJI DESAI): (a) to (d) The States and Union Territories were asked to send their Draft Five Year Plans for 1978-83, in accordance with

the Planning Commission's Guidelines, by the end of July, 1978. So far no Draft Plans have been received.

**Declaration of Ladakh as Scheduled Area**

1412. SHRIMATI PARVATI DEVI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of a long standing demand supported by overwhelming public opinion that Ladakhies be declared as Scheduled Tribe and Ladakh district as scheduled area; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI DHANIK LAL MANDAL): (a) and (b). Government are aware of such a demand made by a section of people from Ladakh. However, the Constitutional provisions relating to Scheduled Tribes and Scheduled Areas do not at present apply to the State of Jammu and Kashmir.

**Setting up of a Thermal Power Station based on Lignite Resources in Gujarat**

1413. SHRI F. P. GAEKWAD: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Electricity Authority has considered feasibility and techno-economic viability of the proposal for the setting up of a Thermal Power Station based on lignite resources in Gujarat;

(b) if so, whether the proposal is feasible and economically viable; and

(c) if so, exact stage of progress of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI P. RAMACHANDRAN): (a)

(c). The feasibility and techno-economic viability of the proposal for setting up a thermal power station with 2 x 55 MW each units based on lignite resources in Gujarat is still under examination in the Central Electricity Authority.

**Launching of Second Satellite S.E.O.**

1414. SHRI K. LAKKAPPA: Will the Minister of SPACE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the launching of India's second satellite SEO is being delayed beyond the scheduled date, i.e., December, 1978;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof and when it is likely to be launched; and

(c) the objectives for which SEO is designed to fulfil?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI MORARJI DESAI): (a) No, Sir. The exact date of launching is however to be fixed during the next joint meeting of the Indian and Soviet Scientists to be held in September, 1978.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The primary objective of the Satellite for Earth Observations (SEO) is to conduct remote sensing observations over Indian territory with the aid of the TV Cameras and microwave radio meters installed in the Satellite. The imagery thus obtained will provide information relating to forestry, hydrology, water resources, snow cover, snow melting and large water and land masses. The microwave radiometers will obtain information relating to the ocean surface winds, ocean temperature and water vapour content which are important inputs to meteorology. The satellite will also carry an experiment to observe X-rays from X-ray stars and will also collect meteorological data from unattended remote platforms.