

made in this policy, except to permit import of testing and cleaning cassettes. As for import under REP licences, the import policy for 1978-79, announced in April 1978, permitted import of audio magnetic tapes without any face value restriction at all, against the export of pre-recorded cassettes; and in turn, import of cassettes was allowed against export of tape recorders. However, under a revision of that policy announced on September 14, 1978, audio magnetic tapes, blank cassettes, and parts thereof, are now allowed against export of cassettes and pre-recorded cassettes, but blank cassettes against export of pre-recorded cassettes only to the extent of 25 per cent of the face value of the licence. Furthermore, the magnitude of the REP entitlement against export of cassettes/pre-recorded cassettes, has also been reduced from 30 per cent in the original import policy to 15 per cent in the revised policy. In addition, the REP policy, as now amended, does not allow import of magnetic tapes against export of tape recorders. However, further consideration is being given to this whole matter by the Department of Electronics and Ministry of Commerce on the basis of several meetings held recently with various concerned sectors of the industry.

Ministers who visited Chikmagalur

1410. SHRI B. K. NAIR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state the names of the Ministers of Central Government who visited the Chikmagalur Parliamentary Constituency in the recent by-election and the number of days each of them spent there?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI DHANIK LAL MANDAL): The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Commissioning of Tuticorin Thermal Plant

1411. SHRI K. MALLANNA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the efforts being made by the colliery authorities, the railways and Government to help the Southern Region to tide over the coal crisis caused by the flooding of coal mines in the Bengal Bihar belt recently;

(b) whether it is a fact that one direct upshoot of the crisis is that the commissioning of the prestigious Tuticorin Thermal Plant, scheduled for December may be delayed by four to five months, which depends entirely on coal supplies from the Eastern Coalfields Ltd.; and

(c) if so, the efforts made by Central Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI P. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) While the requirement of most of the consumers in the South, who are linked to the Bengal Bihar coalfields for their coal supply, continues to be met from those coalfields, the requirement of some of the consumers in that region has been shifted from the Eastern Coalfields Ltd. to Singareni where coal is available in stock for immediate supply and where increased number of wagons is being made available by the Railways for coal loading. This arrangement which is a temporary one would be continued till the production in the Eastern coalfields Ltd. becomes normal.

(b) No, Sir. The commissioning of the Tuticorin thermal power station may not be delayed for want of coal supply.

(c) Does not arise.

Bonus to Defence Production Employees

1412. SHRI VIJAY KUMAR N. PATIL: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the proposal for payment of bonus to the employees of