

(b) and (c). It is not only a question of what HEC and MAMC could supply since this would need to be linked to their ability to supply within a given delivery schedule and at competitive prices as compared to the landed cost of imported equipment. As can be, however, said that where these conditions have been met by HEC & MAMC imports have not been generally allowed. This is also borne out by the increase in production achieved by the units in 1978-79 over 1977-78 and the orders in hand as given below :

(Rs. in crores)

	Value of production			Order in hand as on 31.3.79
	1976-77	1977-78	1978-79	
HEC	92.64	42.15	70.69	172.07
MAMC	35.23	9.46	26.37	60.50

In the case of MAMC the order book is considered as more or less satisfactory and in the case of HEC it has been agreed that adequate orders will be placed on them for the new blast furnace complex of Bailal and substantial portion of equipment for the Vishakhapatnam Steel Plant.

#### Progress in setting up of District Industries Centres

422. SHRI P. S. RAMALINGAM:  
SHRI A. BALA PAJANOR:  
DR. RAMJI SINGH:  
SHRI O. P. TYAGI:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of district industries centres in operation and the expenditure incurred so far thereon;

(b) how many of them are functioning effectively with a complement of truly dedicated and competent personnel;

(c) the concrete achievements in terms of new entrepreneurs identified and assisted; and

(d) estimate of the employment generated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV):

(a) To date 346 District Industries Centres have been sanctioned under the District Industries Centres Programme. All the 346 District Industries Centres were not sanctioned simultaneously but sanction were spread over a period of months. After the sanction of a District Industries Centre, about four months are usually spent in sorting out procedural matters such as, formulation of recruitment rules, formation of Selection Committees, recruitment of staff and training and organising District Industries Centre's offices for settling down to business.

As per information available out of 346 District Industries Centres, 246 District Industries Centres are in operation.

During the year 1978-79, an amount of Rs. 2,600.62 lakhs comprising Rs. 1,900.62 lakhs as grant and Rs. 700.00 lakhs as loan was released to the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations for implementation of this Programme.

(b) 216 District Industries Centres are functioning effectively with a complement of 1031 Functional Managers in various disciplines throughout the country.

(c) and (d). The physical progress reports have been received in respect of 194 District Industries Centres out of 346 District Industries Centres approved so far. It is observed that in reporting 19 District Industries Centres, 59,700 entrepreneurs have been identified and to assist them 18,601 project profiles were prepared during the year 1978-79. The number of new units established in these District Industries Centres stands at 49,609 comprising 34,010 Artisans oriented units and 15,599 Small Scale units providing employment opportunities for 1,46,695 persons. The credit assistance provided by financing institutions amounted to Rs. 58.72 crores. Seed/Margin money amounting to Rs. 2.10 crores was provided to 1901 units. The amount of cash subsidy provided to 4575 units amounted to Rs. 9.04 crores. The number of sick units assisted stands at 502. Technical, managerial, marketing and raw material assistances were also provided to 44,306 units both old and new.

#### News-item captioned "Paper-do not pay more"

423. SHRI KRISHAN KANT: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the advertisement published in the National Press by the Paper Mill owners under the heading "Paper do not pay more";

(b) whether it is a fact that the mills refuse to supply paper direct to consumers and their agents and distributors are demanding a premium of 50 to 70 per cent over and above the "advertised" mill rates;

(c) whether Government are importing paper through S.T.C. to meet the shortage; if so, what is the quantity;

(d) whether the Consumer's Associations have approached Government to allow them to import their member's requirements directly; and

(e) whether they have received any representation that special quota should be fixed for small scale printers through their local associations for text books and exercise books?