

existing capacity in both public and private sector and partly through setting up new capacity.

As for improving the quality of our electronics products, the Department of Electronics has initiated a Standardisation Testing and Quality Control (STQC) Programme under which 18 Electronics Test & Development Centres (ETDCs) are being established in various States, to assist small and medium scale industries in particular, to upgrade the overall quality of their electronics products.

Palekar Award

319. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Palekar Award is well received by employees and employers of presses;

(b) if so, the details of reaction of both parties; and

(c) what measures Government are likely to take against defaulters?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA): (a) to (c). The recommendations of the Tribunals for Working Journalists and non-Journalist Newspaper Employees have evoked mixed response from the employees as well as the employers. While some have welcomed them, a few others have challenged them in the Courts. Government have issued orders accepting the recommendations of the Tribunals, except those relating to D.A., with certain modifications. These have the force of law and provisions exist in the law for action against defaulters. The State Governments are responsible for enforcing the implementation of the orders and they have been requested to take appropriate action in the matter.

Progress made at rare earth station project Chhatrapur

320. SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Rare Earth Project at Chhatrapur in Orissa has made any headway by now;

(b) if so, the total amount spent by now in the construction of the project; and

(c) when this is going to be completed?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI): (a) Yes, Sir. The progress made so far in the construction of the Orissa Sands Complex (OSCOM Project) at Chhatrapur of the Indian Rare Earths Limited, include completion of site preparation, design of plants and equipment by foreign collaborators, placement of orders for most of the plant and machinery and award of contracts for civil and structural works for factory and non-factory buildings and ancillary facilities. The work on civil construction of plant buildings, housing colony, railway siding, water and power supplies and other non-factory buildings and procurement of steel and cement are in progress.

(b) As on 31st December 1980, an amount of Rs. 33.2 crores has been spent on the Project.

(c) The project is now expected to be ready for mechanical completion by May, 1982 and commercial production by December, 1982.

Clearance for Setting up of Industries in Orissa

321. SHRI CHINTAMANI PANIGRAHI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Central Government have given clearance for setting up of