

(b) what will be the process and quantity of production; and

(c) whether it will be direct reduction process like that of Mexico?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF INDUSTRY AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI CHARANJIT CHANANA): (a) to (c). Presumably, the question refers to the application submitted by the Madhya Pradesh State Industries Corporation Limited in 1978 for an Industrial Licence for manufacture of 1,20,000 tonnes per annum of Sponge Iron in Madhya Pradesh. The application was finally rejected by the Government since the Corporation could not furnish essential information on the process proposed to be adopted and foreign collaboration envisaged for the manufacture of sponge iron.

Pillage at Paddar Mine

3833. SHRI RASHEED MASOOD: Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the pilferage of the best quality sapphires from Paddar mines;

(b) if so, whether Government have made any inquiry into the matter and an assessment with regard to the annual loss due to the pilferage of sapphire pieces; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the measures taken by the Government in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF INDUSTRY AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRIMATI RAMDULARI SINHA): (a) The State Government of Jammu & Kashmir have reported that they are unaware of any pilferage and that the State Police are looking after the security of the mine site.

(b) and (c). Does not arise.

Arrest of Assam Student Leaders under N. S. A.

3834. PROF. MADHU DANDAVATE: SHRI HARISH RAWAT:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that after the decision of the Government was announced at the meeting of the Prime Minister with the Opposing leaders on 10 December, 1981 to hold a tripartite meeting on 'foreigners issue' in Assam, student leaders from Assam were detained under the National Security Act;

(b) if so, whether these detentions frustrated the purpose of the tripartite meeting; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to normalise the situation in Assam?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI NIHAR RANJAN LASKAR):

(a) According to the information furnished by the Government of Assam, 12 students were detained under the provision of Sec. 3(2) of the National Security Act between 10.12.81 and 7.1.82, for acting in a manner prejudicial to the security of the State or the maintenance of public order or the maintenance of supplies and services essential to the community. All of them have since been released.

(b) No, Sir. Two rounds of the combined meeting were held in January and February, 1982.

(c) Efforts to find a satisfactory solution to the foreign nationals issue in Assam, are continuing. The next round of the combined meeting is proposed to be held shortly. Besides, the Assam Government have taken all necessary measures to maintain law and order in the State.

Standing Committee on Small Scale Industries

3835. SHRI AJIT BAG: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Small Scale Industries Board has set up a standing committee in the recent past;

(b) if so, the recommendation of the said committee; and

(c) the policy practised by Government with regard to allocation of raw materials to small scale industries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF INDUSTRY AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI CHARANJIT CHANANA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Its major recommendations are:—

(1) That a working group be appointed to update the data and information contained in the report of the committee for drafting legislation for Small Scale Industries submitted to the Government in 1972, in view of the growth in size and range of the small scale sector.

(2) that funds should be made available to the State Small Industries Corporations by the commercial banks on the same terms as to the small scale units.

(3) that a periodical meetings of the State Small Industries Corporations be convened by the Development commissioner, Small Scale Industries to monitor the distribution of raw materials to the small scale industries.

(4) that an assessment of the raw material availability should be made so that relaxation of the informal ban on as many types of units as possible could be considered.

(c) Critical raw materials are released to the State Governments/State Small Industries Corporations on the basis of demands received from various States related to their past off-take and pro-rated to the availability of these raw materials.

Industrial Relations Bill

3836. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARYA: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have taken decision to bring a comprehensive industrial relations Bill in the Budget Session of Parliament; and

(b) if so, details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI DHARMAVIR): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Condition of Automobile Industry and Rise in Prices

3837. SHRI H. K. L. BHAGAT: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the condition of automobile industry in India in regard to manufacture of cars;

(b) the scale of rise in prices during the last one year; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRIES OF INDUSTRY AND STEEL AND MINES (SHRI CHARANJIT CHANANA): (a) The present models of cars manufactured in India are not contemporary with those manufactured in the developed countries.

(b) The retail prices of the Ambassador and Premier cars in Delhi as on 1-1-81 and 1-1-82 are given below:

	Price on 1-1-81	Price on 1-1-82
	Rs.	Rs.
Ambassador	57,864	73,525
Premier Padmini	63,492	69,427

(c) Government have established Maruti Udyog Limited with the objective of manufacturing fuel efficient passenger cars at economical prices employing the latest technology. This project will assist in upgrading of the Indian automotive industry. Government have also impressed upon the existing manufacturers the need to curb price increases and the Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices has been asked to look into the matter and report.