

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri). The Industrial Estate at Rourkela is estimated to cost Rs 15 lakhs 25 acres of land have been acquired at a cost of Rs 20,000. Detailed plans and estimates for the Estate have been approved by the State Government. The State Government have allotted Rs 6,10,000 for the construction of factory buildings, providing electric installations, etc in the Estate during the current financial year. The State P.W.D. have taken up the work of construction of buildings in hand.

Cycle Light Lamps

458. Shri Rameshwar Tantia: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state

(a) whether it is a fact that no efforts have been made so far to issue a standard for the cycle light lamps, and

(b) whether any effort has been made to manufacture cycle lamps which are theft-proof and free from mechanical defects?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri)

(a) The Indian Standards Institution has accepted Bicycle Oil lamps as a subject for standardisation and has collected preliminary data

(b) Cycle lamps are produced mainly by small-scale units. Statistics of production are not available. No information about any mechanical defects of lamps produced by such units is available.

2. Dynamo lighting sets for bicycles are produced by two large-scale units. The products of one of the latter units was tested in the Alipore Test House and found satisfactory. No complaints in regard to mechanical defects have been received from the large-scale sector.

3. There is no information as to whether theft-proof lamps have been manufactured.

Implementation of Housing Schemes

459. { Shri Rameshwar Tantia:
Shri Osman Ali Khan:
Shri Bahadur Singh:

Will the Minister of Works, Housing and Supply be pleased to state how much amount is still not utilised by different States out of the amount allocated under various housing schemes under Second Five Year Plan and what efforts have been made to check the delay in formalities which occur in the course of the implementation of various housing schemes?

The Deputy Minister of Works, Housing and Supply (Shri Anil K. Chanda). Five Scheme-wise statements showing the existing Plan Provision for each State, amounts allocated to and drawn by each State in the first two years of the Plan, the amounts allocated for the current year and the balance available for utilisation in the remaining two years of the Plan are laid on the Table of the House [See Appendix I, annexure No 110]

2. The following important steps have been taken during this year to check the delay due to formalities, which occurred in the implementation of Housing Schemes —

(a) The State Governments have been authorised to sanction themselves, the projects formulated by them (or by the local bodies/Co-operatives/Industrial Employers in the State, as the case may be) both under the Subsidised Industrial Housing and Slum Clearance Schemes, within the respective limits of allocation of funds (They were already competent to formulate and sanction projects under the remaining three schemes, viz Low Income Group Housing Scheme, Plantation Labour Housing Scheme and Village Housing Projects Scheme). They do not, therefore, now have to wait for technical approval or financial sanction from the Centre before commencing work on individual projects.

(b) Under the revised procedure for release of Central assistance introduced in May, 1958, three-fourths of the amount allocated to the States for individual housing schemes is automatically placed at their disposal, as ways and means advances, in nine monthly instalments, to be finally adjusted at the close of the financial year in the light of the actual expenditure incurred. Thus, the Housing Projects are no longer delayed through formalities on account of sanction and drawal of funds.

(c) Senior Officers of the Ministry regularly meet State Government officials, inspect housing projects, discuss measures to accelerate the pace of progress of construction and as far as practicable, endeavour to settle problems on the spot

Sekhsaria Cotton Mills, Bombay

460. Shri Rameshwar Tantia: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that special import quota of foreign cotton has been allotted to Sekhsaria Cotton Mills, Bombay which is run by the State Government; and

(b) if so, what is the quantity and what are the reasons for allotting the quota?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri):
(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 242 bales. The mills remained closed in early 1958. The mill is now being run by the State Government under the unemployment relief scheme. Before closure the mill was producing fine and superfine cloth for which it was getting quotas of foreign cotton based on its past consumption. The above special quota was allotted as the mill needed some stock for a continuous operation, and on their specific undertaking not to increase their consumption above their normal requirements.

Light Music in A.I.E.

461. Pandit D. N. Tiwary: Will the Minister of Information and Broadcasting be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to set up a board for light music auditions; and

(b) if so, whether the details of cost etc. have been worked out?

The Minister of Information and Broadcasting (Dr. Keskar): (a) Yes, Sir

(b) The details are being worked out. However the cost of such a board is not expected to be high as its members are honorary.

Unit for handling Oilcakes

462. Shri V. P. Nayar: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state whether it is a fact that a unit with handling capacity of 200 tons of oilcakes has been licensed to M/s D.C.M. Chemicals Limited or any of its associates or subsidiaries?

The Minister of Commerce and Industry (Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri): No, Sir. However an application from this firm for grant of a licence for the manufacture of Cotton seed oil by solvent extraction process of Cotton seed and Cotton seed oil cake is under consideration.

All India Economic Conference

463. Shri H. N. Mukerjee: Will the Minister of Planning be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the discussion at the recent All India Economic Conference at Lucknow on the foreign exchange situation and the requirements of the Plan; and

(b) whether a report of the discussion would be made available to Members of Parliament?

The Deputy Minister of Planning (Shri S. N. Mishra): (a) Yes.