

Production of Liquid Crystal Devices by BEL

428. SHRI E. BALANANDAN :
SHRI M.M. LAWRENCE :

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Bharat Electronics Ltd., Bangalore was able to produce Liquid Crystal Devices based on the success research conducted in Raman Research Institute;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Bharat Electronics Ltd. have applied for the manufacture of 5 million Devices annually;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Department of Electronics said that the LCD's made by BEL should be sent to Japan for testing instead of recommending for the issue of licence; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ELECTRONICS AND IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI M.S. SANJEEVI RAO) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir. Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) has applied for an industrial licence for the manufacture of one million numbers of Liquid Crystal Displays per annum.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Soviet Offer of Atomic Power Plant on Turn Key Basis

429. SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU :
Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Soviet Union has made an offer to set up two atomic power plants on turn key basis in India; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Soviet offer is for assistance in the construction of reactors of 440 MW each. Technical aspects of the offer have been ascertained and are being evaluated. Other aspects of the offer are under consideration of the Government.

Restructuring of Current Import Policy for Wire Rods and Wires

430. SHRI ARUN KUMAR NEHRU :
Will the Minister of STEEL AND MINES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the wire drawing units of the country have urged restructuring of the current import policy for wire rods and wires; and

(b) if so, the specific proposals thrown up by the industries and Government's reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI N.K.P. SALVE) : (a) and (b) The Steel Wire Manufacturers Association of India has proposed decanalisation of the import of certain varieties of steel wire rods, their raw material, and banning of the import of certain sizes of steel wires, their end product. Decanalisation of import of wire rods has been proposed by the Association on account of :-

delay in the procurement of material by the canalising agency—SAIL;

financial stringency on account of SAIL's insistence on opening of LC for the full quantity before import; and

placement of orders by SAIL on known and non-established suppliers on the basis of their lower quotations.

Certain sizes of wire rods proposed for decanalisation by this Association are manufactured in the country but the manufacture of others is under development. Only the gap between demand and domestic production need be imported. In regard to wires, the import of wires upto 26 SWG is