

shortage have been permitted to apply for their import requirements over a period longer than six months at a time. The policy also provides for review of entitlement of Actual Users. The cases of Actual users in which it is established that the operation of the existing import policy creates undue hardship and is likely to affect industrial development is considered for imports by a Special Committee under the Chief Controller of Imports and Exports.

**Applications for setting up of Industries in Backward Areas**

2151. SHRI S. R. DAMANI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of applications received during 1970-71 for starting industries in backward areas and for which items ;

(b) the number out of them approved and for which items ;

(c) whether any party or parties asked for special concessions or relaxations and if so, Government's reaction thereto ; and

(d) the number of applications rejected and the reasons thereof ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD) : (a), (b) and (d). Separate statistics of applications on area-wise or district-wise basis are not maintained at present. Such figures are maintained on a State-wise basis only.

(c) The applications for industrial licences are dealt with in the various Ministries/Departments concerned. It is likely that some the applicants may have approached the Ministries/Departments

concerned, for certain concessions or relaxations. Such requests are dealt with on merits as and when they arise. However, data in this regard is not collected and maintained in any central place.

**Profit or Loss resulting from Departmental Catering Service on Railways**

2152. SHRI S. R. DAMANI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the profit or loss resulting from the departmental catering service on the Railways during 1970-71 and how it compares with the previous two years' working ;

(b) whether complaints have been received about the large-scale pilferage and the poor service rendered ; and

(c) the action taken to improve the quality of service ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI HANUMANTHAIYA) : (a) The profits earned by the Departmental Catering units on Indian Railways during the year 1970-71 amounted to Rs. 26.12 lakhs approximately, as compared with profits of Rs. 23.42 lakhs and Rs. 20.61 lakhs earned during 1968-69 and 1969-70 respectively.

(b) There have been no complaints about large scale pilferage in the Departmental Catering but some complaints have been received about poor quality of service.

(c) Some of the measures taken to improve quality of service include tightening up of supervision in regard to purchase and supply of good quality raw materials, laying down proper schedules for preparations, training of catering staff in the culinary art in Departmentally managed units and ensuring general cleanliness arrangements.