

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the suggestion of the workers of Sri Ram Institute of Industrial Research for taking over the Institute which is doing the same type of work ; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (YOJANA MANTRI TATHA VIGYAN AUR PRAD-YOGIKI VIBHAG MANTRI) (SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM) : (a) and (b). The Standing Committee which was appointed by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (C.S.I.R.) to go into the R and D problems of the plastic industry has suggested the setting up of a Special Cell in C.S.I.R. with the following functions :—

- (i) to make a detailed review of the existing facilities available in the country and immediate additional facilities required for accelerating programmes of Research and Development in Polymers ;
- (ii) to identify the needs of the industry both organised and small and medium scale sector for Research and Development and also programmes to build up forward technology ;
- (iii) to attempt continuous contact and have dialogue with the industry to locate users of R and D at an early stage of the projects to be undertaken ;
- (iv) to farm out R and D projects based on (i) to (ii) above and to determine priorities ; and
- (v) to make suitable recommendations based on the need and facilities available including the setting up of a New laboratory.

The suggestions are under consideration.

(c) The Government has seen the Press Report published in one of the dailies at New Delhi.

(d) This will be looked into at the appropriate time.

Forecast by World Bank re : Indian Exports

356. SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE (VIDESH VYAPAR MANTRI) be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Bank forecast had predicted only 3.5 per cent annual rise in Indian exports and the actual rise in 1970-71 has been above 8 per cent ; and

(b) if so, the basis and motives behind the pessimistic World Bank forecast ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE (VIDESH VYAPAR MANTRALAYA MEN UP-MANTRI) (SHRI A. C. GEORGE) : (a) Yes, Sir. The forecast predicting a low rate of (about 3.5%) increase in Indian exports in 1970-71 may have been made at an early stage while drafting the foreign Trade Chapter of their annual report on India.

(b) It appears that their forecast was considerably influenced by the following factors :

- (i) A decline in the rate of growth of exports from 13.3 per cent in 1968-69 to 4.1 per cent in 1969-70 ;
- (ii) A substantial fall in exports during the months of June and July, 1970 as compared to the corresponding months of 1969 ;
- (iii) The export figures for August, September and October 1970 available at that time were subsequently revised upward.

Steps to increase Exports

357. SHRI BHOGENDRA JHA : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE (VIDESH VYAPAR MANTRI) be pleased to state :

(a) the steps being taken to maintain and constantly increase this year's rate of rise in exports ; and

(b) the volume and percentage of exports to major capitalist socialist and developing countries and their relation to imports therefrom ?