

(a) whether her attention has been drawn to press reports that Shri Saroj Datta, a well-known poet and allegedly a Naxalite leader, was recently arrested by the Police in West Bengal and has not been heard of since;

(b) whether she has received a representation from and/or on behalf of his wife fearing that Shri Datta might have been killed in the Police custody; and

(c) what are the reasons for such reports not being expeditiously clarified by official reassurance of the correct state of of things ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI K C PANT) : (a) Government have seen some press reports in this regard.

(b) and (c). A letter has been received from Smt. Bela Datta. According to the report received from the Government of West Bengal, they have no information to confirm the reported arrest or death of Saroj Datta.

Closure of Transistor Factories in Small Scale Sector

443. SHRI SATYENDRA NARAIN SINHA : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether most of the small scale manufacturers of transistors have to close down their factories because of very severe competitions; and

(b) if so, the action Government propose to take to remedy the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI K.C. PANT) : (a) and (b). The production of transistor radios in the small scale sector has been steadily increasing. It went upto 11 lakhs radio sets in 1970 as against 3.1 lakh radio sets in 1965. The production of radios by the firms in the organized and the small scale sectors from 1965 to 1970 has been as under :—

Year of production	Production in organised sector (in lakhs)	Production in small scale sector (estimated in lakhs)	Total (in lakhs)	% of production in the small scale sector
1965	5.8	3.1	8.9	34.8%
1966	7.1	3.9	11	35.5%
1967	8.5	4.5	13	34.6%
1968	13.8	7.5	21.3	35.2%
1969	17.3	9	26.3	34.3%
1970	17.8	11	28.8	37.9%

Complaints have been received from the small scale sector for their facing competition from the organised sector. To encourage the small scale sector Government have taken the following steps :—

(i) An excise duty of Rs. 10/- is levied on each set priced Rs. 165/- or less made by the organised sector while the small scale sector is exempted from this levy.

(ii) Small scale units are permitted an increase of 50% over the previous year's production for determining the import entitlement.

(iii) Government requirements of radios are being purchased from small scale sector.

Government are also considering whether any further encouragement to the small

scale sector is necessary.

In this connection it may be stated that in terms of the existing licensing policy the manufacture of radios can be undertaken without obtaining an industrial licence by any unit which does not belong to one of the larger houses or is not a foreign firm, since for this purpose, the capital investment required is less than Rs. 1 crore and the value of imported plant and machinery and components needed is less than the prescribed limits.

Issue of Licences to Monopoly Houses after enactment of Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act, 1969

444. SHRI SATYENDRA NARAIN SINHA : Will the Minister OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of Industrial Licences given to the monopoly houses after the enactment of the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act, 1969;

(b) the justification for giving these licences;

(c) whether Government have fixed any ceiling beyond which an Industrial House will not be allowed to grow; and

(d) if so, what?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI GHANSHYAM OZA) : (a) The total number of industrial licences issued to companies belonging to or controlled by the Industrial Houses which *Prima-facie* attract the provisions of the M.R.T.P. Act from the commencement of the Act that is from 1.6.70 upto 23.10.71 is 157, out of which 105 are for 'carrying on business' while only 52 licences are for setting up of new undertakings, expansion of existing capacities and diversification.

(b) to (d). The licences are issued on merits consistent with Government's revised Industrial Licensing Policy as enunciated in February, 1970, after following the due procedure applicable to each case.

Quality of Cars

445. SHRI BANAMALI PATNAIK : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the existing three private Car manufacturing units have not been able to improve the quality of Cars despite protestations and pleadings; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI GHANSHYAM OZA) : (a) and (b). In July, 1967, Government had appointed an Expert Committee, named the Motor Car Quality Enquiry Committee, to investigate into the causes of the deterioration in the quality of cars and to suggest remedial measures. The Committee made a number of recommendations for improving the quality of cars. These were communicated to the car manufacturers for compliance. In order to ensure compliance, statutory directions under Section 16 of the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951 were also issued to the car manufacturers in respect of the more important of these recommendations. In pursuance of one of the recommendations of the Committee, a directive was issued to the car manufacturers and the Associations of Automobiles and Ancillaries to obtain their bought out stems from companies who have ISI Certification Mark. Despite these steps, there has been no appreciable improvement in the quality of cars though the number of complaints received has registered a marginal decline. The reason primarily is absence of quality consciousness among car manufacturers as they function in a sheltered and sellers' market.

Development of Backward Districts in Orissa

447. SHRI BANAMALI PATNAIK : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2754 on the 22nd June, 1971 regarding setting up of Industries in Tumkur District (Mysore) and state :