

Tobacco Company had not taken permission from Government before declaring a lock-out in the factory on October 6, 1971; and

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI GHANSHYAM OZA): (a) and (b). No permission is required to be obtained from the Central Government under the provisions of the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951 or Companies Act, 1956 for declaring such a lock-out. If, however, an industrial undertaking remains closed for a period exceeding 30 days, then the owner thereof is required to inform the Government of the fact within 7 days of the expiry of the said period of 30 days. The factory of Indian Tobacco Company is reported to have remained closed for 13 days only.

Setting up of Investment Guidance Centre in Calcutta

1432. DR. RANEN SEN: Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to set up an Investment Guidance Centre in Calcutta to assist the prospective investors to take investment decision;

(b) if so, the main features thereof; and

(c) when the Guidance Centre is expected to be set up?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Bureau will be an advisory body providing facilities of guidance to the entrepreneurs in matters relating to basic and factual information about investment prospects and needs etc. It is expected that the Bureau will assist in harnessing national resources for expanding production and employment opportunities.

(c) It is in the process of being setting up and is expected to start functioning soon.

Unearthing of Foreign Exchange Racket

1433. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a racket in connection with foreign exchange has been recently unearthed;

(b) if so, the total amount of foreign exchange seized from the gangsters;

(c) whether some arrests have been made in this regard;

(d) whether some missionaries and foreigners are involved in the racket; and

(e) the steps taken by Government to put a check on such rackets in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) and (b). The reference appears to be a seizure made on 18th August, 1971 by the officers of the Special Customs Preventive at Kasargod, Mysore when some documents and foreign exchange amounting to about U.S Dollars 10400 and £ 4003 were received.

(c) 15 persons have been arrested during further enquiries in connection with this seizure.

(d) Since the investigation into the matter is in progress, it will not be desirable to divulge the nature of the allegations or further details, as this may hamper the enquiry.

(e) The Directorate of Enforcement take action in accordance with law in specific cases of violations that come to notice. Appropriate legislative and administrative measures are taken from time to time to curb violations of Foreign Exchange Regulations.

Jammu and Kashmir Lottery Scandal

1434. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK:
SHRI YAMUNA PRASAD MANDAL:
SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the members of the Indian

Audit and Accounts Service have come under cloud in the Jammu and Kashmir Lottery Scandal ;

(b) whether Government have any organisation to act as a watchdog on its behalf in case of lotteries run by the State Government ; and

(c) the measures which Government propose to take to check malpractices in such cases ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF PERSONNEL (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA) : (a) to (c). The required information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House on receipt.

Measures for Civil Defence

1435. SHRI DINESH CHANDER GOSWAMI :
SHRI HARI KISHORE SINGH :

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the reason why inspite of serious threat of war from Pakistan, no effective measures for the Civil Defence have been taken in the country and more particularly in the Eastern region ; and

(b) what further steps Government are taking to make the Civil Defence more effective to meet the situations arising from the hostile neighbour across the border ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI F. H. MOHSIN) : (a) and (b). Adequate steps within the means available are being taken by the Central and State Governments to strengthen civil defence measures in the various parts of the country including Eastern region. Some of these measures are installation of additional sirens, mobilisation of civil defence services including improved communications, and black-out exercises.

Creation of Artificial Shortage of Consumers goods by Manufacturing concerns

1436. SHRI SHIV KUMAR SHASTRI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that a large number of Companies, some of whom are manufacturing products such as Eveready Battery Cells, Sunlight soap, Colgate tooth paste, Safety Razor Blades are monopolist and have manoeuvred short supplies, are indulging in black-marketing through tagging i.e. pushing other products on the back of short supplied products ; and

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take to stop such malpractices ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD) :

(a) Government have not received any such complaint against manufacturing companies.

(b) Does not arise.

Police Firing at Haldia (West Bengal)

1437. SHRI R. P. DAS . Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether five persons were killed and a number of people injured at Haldia (West Bengal) on the 22nd September, 1971 as a result of the Police firing ; and

(b) if so, the action taken against the Police officials responsible for this firing ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI F. H. MOHSIN) : (a) According to report received from the State Government a police party, which had gone to Haldia for apprehending offender was subjected to severe brickbattering by a mob of about 2,000 strong. The police opened fire in self-defence, as a result of which 15 persons were injured. 3 of them later died. 13 police officials were also injured as a result of brickbattering.

(b) An executive inquiry into the matter was being held and the report of the inquiry is awaited.