

**Manufacture of Consumer Goods with Soviet Collaboration**

1446. SHRI N. K. SANGHI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Soviet Union has offered to the Government of India to have certain of their consumer goods manufactured in India with Soviet raw materials ;

(b) the terms and conditions of the offer with particular reference to the items required by the Soviet Union ; and

(c) whether the terms of offer in each case has been processed by this Ministry and, if so, whether an agreement has been entered into in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI GHANSHYAM OZA) : (a) to (c). An agreement has been reached between India and Soviet Union about the supply of raw cotton to India for processing. In terms of the agreement which is for a period of 4 years commencing from 1972, India will receive every year approximately 20,000 metric tons of Russian cotton for conversion into cotton textiles and manufactures to be exported back to the USSR. India will get conversion charges, which would be mutually settled every year. The protocol envisaging the various details of the agreement would be signed shortly.

**Manufacture of Consumer Goods in Public Sector**

1448. SHRI P. GANGADEB :  
SHRI P. M. MEHTA :  
SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considering to enter the field of consumer industries in a big way and also to set up profit yielding industries ;

(b) if so, the names of those industries ; and

(c) how far Government is hopeful of its success ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI GHANSHYAM OZA) : (a) to (c). It has been decided in principle that the role of public sector should be expanded and extended to new fields, including those consumer industries in which major production gaps are likely to develop in coming years. A final selection of such industries to be taken up in the public sector has not been completed so far.

**National Committee on Science and Technology**

1449. SHRI P. GANGADEB :  
SHRI DHARAMRAO AFZALPURKAR :  
SHRI P. M. MEHTA :

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government are considering a proposal to set up National Committee on Science and Technology ; and

(b) if so, when it is likely to be set up ?

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM) : (a) and (b). The Government has set up a National Committee on Science and Technology to advise and assist Government on matters pertaining to development of science and technology in the country, particularly on the preparation, updating and evaluation of national scientific and technological plans, both Five Year and Perspective Plans, in close cooperation with the Planning Commission. The Committee's work was inaugurated by the President on 16.11.1971.

**Paper and Printing Crisis in P&T Department**

1450. SHRI P. GANGADEB :  
SHRI P. M. MEHTA :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Posts and Telegraphs Department is in the midst of paper and printing crisis ;