

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD): (a) and (b). Details of all industrial licences and letters of intent issued by the Government from to time time are given in the "Weekly Bulletin of Industrial Licences, Import Licences and Export Licences", Weekly "Indian Trade Journal" and the monthly "Journal of Industry and Trade". Copies of these publications are available in the Parliament Library. However, two statements are laid on the Table of the House [Placed in Library. see No. LT-3927/72.]

(c) It is yet too early to assess the impact of industrial licensing policy on removal of regional imbalances.

**Applications from Kerala for licences in backward areas**

3310. SHRIMATI BHARGAVI THANKAPPAN:

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

(a) whether some industrialists of Kerala made requests for the grant of licences to start industries in the backward areas and promote industrialisation of backward regions;

(b) if so, the outlines thereof; and

(c) whether Government propose to prepare any alternative scheme to set up industries in the backward areas in Kerala?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD): (a) and (b). Ten applications for industrial licences to start new undertakings in the backward Districts of Kerala have been received between August, 1971 and September 1972. Of these 2 have been finalised and disposed of by way of issue of letters of intent (or exemption from licensing). The remaining 8 are at present under consideration. Details of pending applications are normally not disclosed. The letter of intent

issued relates to safety razor blades and involves investment of Rs. 72.6 lakhs on land, building and machinery.

(c) The Government have announced in August, 1971, a scheme for the grant of subsidy to the industries set up in the selected backward districts of the country. This scheme is applicable to the State of Kerala also. Besides the scheme of concessional finance for backward areas already in force is also applicable to Kerala.

**Visit of High-Powered Soviet Team of Gosplan (Russian Planning Commission)**

3312. SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether a high-powered Soviet team of Gosplan (Russian Planning Commission) has started in-depth studies in India aiming at dovetailing the 5-years Plans of Russia and India; and

(b) if so, whether more significant object of this exercise is rapid stepping up of steel production in this country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI MOHAN DEARIA): (a) and (b). Three Groups of Soviet experts, also representing Soviet Planning Organisation (Gosplan), are at present holding discussions with the Indian counter-parts with a view to exploring possibilities of further cooperation in the fields of (i) ferrous and non-ferrous industries and (ii) industrial production intended to increase trade between the two countries. These are, however, no proposals to dovetail the Five-Year Plans of Russia and India.

**Expenditure on Introduction of PIN Code System in Post Offices**

3313. SHRI RAMAVATAR SASTRI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a colossal sum of money is being spent for introducing PIN CODE in the Post Offices;