

Letters of Intent/Industrial Licences have been issued to 6 parties and 50 units have been registered under the Liberalised Industrial Licensing Policy for setting up electric arc furnace complexes, during the current year. It would not be possible to indicate the number of such units likely to be licensed in the next three years of the Fifth Plan or when actual work will start on these plants in the private sector, since it would be dependent on a number of factors like the capacity of the entrepreneurs to implement the schemes, availability of power and other infrastructure facilities, availability of critical raw materials etc.

Allegations by Union against Hindustan Levers Ltd.

5684. SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether serious allegations have been made against the Hindustan Levers Ltd., by the Union recently;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto; and

(c) the steps taken in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA) : (a) to (c). The representatives of the employees of Hindustan Lever Limited, New Delhi, had made certain allegations against the management. By and large, the issues raised could more appropriately be settled by the parties through mutual discussions.

Dismissal of Union office bearers by G. E. C. (India) Ltd., Kanpur

5685. SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether G.E.C. (India) Limited at Kanpur has dismissed any Union office bearers and this has been brought to the notice to his Ministry; and

(b) if so, the action taken by Government in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI BALGOVIND VERMA) : (a) and (b). The matter falls essentially in the State sphere. There were representations to the Ministry of Labour which have been referred to the State Government.

Increase in Production of Ordnance Factories

5686. SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether production in the Ordnance Factories has increased; and

(b) if so, how it compares with the production figures of 1972?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (DEFENCE PRODUCTION) IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI VIDYA CHARAN SHUKLA) : (a) and (b). The overall production in the Ordnance factories depends mainly on the requirements of the Services. There was rise in production during 1971-72 and 1972-73. The production during 1973-74 will be finally known only after March 74, but is expected to be lower than the levels of 1972-73.

Stagnation in Central Ordnance Depots

5687. SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether most of the industrial workers in Central Ordnance Depots are seriously suffering because of stagnation as labourers;

(b) if so, whether any solution has been found to overcome this; and

(c) if so, what are the salient features of this scheme?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI J. B. PATNAIK) : (a) to (c). The stagnation amongst Defence employees both non-industrial and industrial in Class III and Class IV cadres was considered. It was decided that to mitigate the hardship, personal pay equivalent to the last increment drawn may be granted with effect from 1st March 1970 to all Class III and Class IV employees, who have remained at the maximum of their pay scales for two years. Further improvement will be effected in the light of decisions taken on the recommendations of the Third Pay Commission in regard to the creation of Selection Grades.