

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI M. B. RANA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Ms. Ashoka Marketing Ltd. is required to supply cement to U.P. Bihar, West Bengal, Assam and Far Eastern Region of the country. They are comparatively better situated to effect supplies to Bihar, U.P., Assam and Far Eastern region than the factories on the South Eastern Railways. They were, therefore, allotted only a quota 8786 tonnes for supplies to West Bengal under Freesale category during the period October-December, 1973. Due to movement restraints, they were granted an additional quota of 75,000 tonnes for supply to West Bengal under Freesale category, making a total of 16,286 tonnes. They actually supplied a quantity of 28,283 tonnes, far in excess of the quota allotted to them without proper sanction. A ban had, therefore, to be enforced on their further supplies to West Bengal under the Freesale category to effect better supplies under the categories other than "Free Sale" under which supplies were not adequate. This ban was lifted with effect from 18-2-74, when an undertaking was given by M/s. Ashoka Marketing Ltd. that they would improve their supplies to Assam and Far Eastern region. It is not correct that huge stocks had accumulated with them as compared to the factories on the South Eastern Railways.

Report of the Committee appointed to enquire into the Newspaper Costs

7068. SHRI P. VENKATASUBAIAH: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the fact finding Committee set up by Government to inquire into the newspaper costs has submitted its report;

(b) if so, the findings thereof; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto and steps proposed to be taken in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI DHARAM BIR SINHA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

Opening of Post Offices in Orissa during First Year of Fifth Plan

7069. SHRI BANAMALI BABU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether opening of Post Offices during 1st Year of Fifth Plan in Orissa has been finalised;

(b) if so, number of Post Offices proposed to be opened, district-wise; and

(c) how many of them will be opened in Tribal areas and other backward areas of the State?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (PROF. SHER SINGH): (a) In view of the financial stringency in the country, it has been decided not to fix any target regarding opening of post offices in the country during the current year.

(b) Does not arise in view of the answer to part (a).

(c) In view of (a) above, the number of Post Offices to be opened in Tribal areas and other backward areas of the State has not been fixed. Proposals for opening of new Post Offices will be decided according to prescribed standards relating to

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 population, distance from nearest P.O. and financial conditions etc. **Loan for Hire Purchases by N.S.I.C.**

Opening of Post Offices in Orissa during Fourth Plan

7070. SHRI BANAMALI BABU: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the target of opening of Post Offices in Orissa State for the Fourth Plan has been fully achieved; and

(b) if not, what is the shortfall; and the reasons for the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (PROF. SHER SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Recasting of Annual Plan for West Bengal for 1974-75

7071. SHRI SAKTI KUMAR SARKAR: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the West Bengal Government was asked to recast its annual plan for 1974-75; and

(b) if so, the main features of the State's annual plan before and after recasting as desired by the Planning Commission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI MOHAN DHARIA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

7072. SHRI SAKTI KUMAR SARKAR:

SHRI A. K. M. ISHAQUE:

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

(a) whether National Small Industry Corporation give loans for Hire Purchases;

(b) if so, total amount sanctioned by the Hire Purchase Division of National Small Industries Corporation State-wise during the last three years; and

(c) whether these amounts were utilised for indigenous manufactured machines and if so, industry-wise information thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ZIAUR RAHMAN ANSARI): (a) and (b). No direct loan assistance is given by N.S.I.C. to entrepreneurs. Only machinery is supplied on hire purchase basis to small scale entrepreneurs. Value of machinery supplied during the last three years (State-wise) is given in the statement laid on the Table of the House. [Placed in Library. See No. LT-6724/74]

(c) Both imported and indigenous machines were supplied by N.S.I.C. Details for the last three years are as follows:

(Rs. in lakhs)			
Year	Imported	Indigenous	Total
1971-72	779.5	90.5	1070.0
1972-73	769.5	146.0	915.5
1973-74 (Upto Feb. 74)	342.34	164.28	506.62

The industries for which the machines were supplied are Mechanical, Elec. Engineering, Surgical industries.