

Theft of Stores in P&T Department

2997. SHRI ARVIND M. PATEL;
SHRI D. P. JADEJA;

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether ten cases of theft of stores were noticed in the P & T department between 1971 to 1973;

(b) if so, the facts about stores lost as a result thereof and their value; and

(c) what steps have been taken by Government to further tighten the security measures?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (PROF. SHER SINGH): (a) In the P&T Department loss of Telegraph Stores by theft was reported in the period 1-4-71 to 31-3-73 in a number of cases which is much larger than ten. The number of thefts of Copper Wire from Telecom. alignments during the period was 55309. The number of cases of theft of stores from Telegraph Store Depots during the period was 212. There were no cases of theft of value above Rs 2000⁰ reported from Postal Stock Depots during the period.

(b) (i) *Theft of copper Wire from Telecom Alignments:*

Year	No. of cases	Value in Rs.
1971-72	31940	2,09,47,426
1972-73	23369	1,42,60,815

(ii) *Theft of materials from Telegraph Store Depots:*

Year	No. of cases	Value in Rs.
1971-72	111	2,05,378
1972-73	101	14,97,052

(c) (i) In regard to prevention of loss of copper wire by theft from Telegraph alignment, the following measures have been taken—

(1) Replacement of Copper wire by ACSR and Copper-weld Wire progressively, with priority given to the theft-affected areas.

(2) Gradual extension of Coaxial Cable and Microwave networks to replace over-head line routes.

(3) Amendment of the Telegraph Wires (Unlawful Possession) Act 1950 to provide for deterrent punishment even in case of first offenders.

(4) Co-ordination with State Police.

(i) To prevent thefts from Store Depots, active patrolling and more vigil by Security staff has been enjoined. Structural Security of godowns have also been improved.

Production in National Instruments Ltd.

2998. SHRI ARVIND M. PATEL;
SHRI D. P. JADEJA;

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

(a) whether production in National Instruments Limited declined during the year 1972-73;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to step up production during the coming years?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ZIAUR RAHMAN ANSARI): (a) No, Sir. The production figures for the last five years are indicated below:

(Rupees in lakhs)

(1)	1968-69	39.73
(2)	1969-70	41.41
(3)	1970-71	65.22
(4)	1971-72	107.77
(5)	1972-73	111.55

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Constant efforts are being made to step up production. The production in the year 1973-74 increased to Rs. 302.20 lakhs.

Completion of work assigned to Fact Finding Committee on Newspaper Economics

2999. SHRI ARVIND M. PATEL:
SHRI D. P. JADEJA:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Fact Finding Committee on Newspaper Economics were to complete its work before June, 1974;

(b) if not, whether the life of the Committee will be further extended; and

(c) whether while extending the life, Government will impress upon the Committee the desirability of early completion of its work?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI DHARAM BIR SINHA): (a) to (c). The work of the Fact Finding Committee on Newspaper Economics could not be completed by June 1974 because some newspapers failed to furnish the data required by the Committee and also a writ petition was filed by one of them, before the Calcutta High Court challenging the validity of the constitution of the Committee and conferment of powers under the Commissions of Inquiry Act on the Committee. The Court in its judgment dated 22nd April 1974, however, rejected the main contentions of the petitioners but at the same time held that certain powers under the said Act, including the power to require information, had not been validly conferred on the Committee. Following the Court judgment Government has taken the necessary steps to confer the necessary powers on the Committee to require information from

the defaulting newspapers. Fresh legal notices had to be issued seeking from the defaulting papers replies to the Committee's questionnaire.

Under the circumstances it became necessary for Government to extend the life of the Committee till 31st December, 1974 by which date the Committee expects to submit its report.

High rate of Interest charged by Banks from Small Scale Industries

3000. SHRI MADHU LIMAYE:

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

(a) whether it is a fact that small scale industrial units and ancillary units in the small scale sector are experiencing a lot of difficulties because of the high rates of interest charged by the banks;

(b) whether the ancillary units are being treated by the Reserve Bank and Commercial Banks as large scale units and charged 15 per cent interest; and

(c) whether the Ministry of Industrial Development has taken up or will take up with the Finance Ministry the general question of securing a reduction of the rates of interest for small scale units and especially the discriminatory rates of interest for ancillary units in the small scale sector?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ZIAUR RAHMAN ANSARI): (a) Small scale industrial units enjoy a concessionary rate of interest which is 1 per cent less than is applicable to other sectors of industry. Ancillary units in the small scale sector with a capital investment ranging between Rs. 7.5 lakhs and Rs. 10 lakhs do not, however, enjoy this concessionary rate of interest.