

(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.

(b) Rates of interest charged vary from bank to bank. Ancillary units with capital investment ranging between Rs. 7.5 lakhs and Rs. 10 lakhs are treated like other units in the medium and large scale sectors.

(c) There is already a concession of 1 per cent in the rates of interest now available to small scale industrial units except to ancillary units whose capital investment ranges between Rs. 7.5 lakhs and Rs. 10 lakhs. The question of bringing them under the Credit Guarantee Scheme has been accepted in principle by the Reserve Bank of India. The details are being worked out.

Limit on Value of Plant and Machinery for Small Scale Industrial and Ancillary Unit

3001. SHRI MADHU LIMAYE:

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

(a) whether a limit of Rs. 7.5 lakhs was imposed on the value of plant and machinery for small scale industrial units;

(b) whether a limit of Rs. 10 lakhs was imposed on the value of plant and machinery for small scale ancillary units;

(c) whether there has been a phenomenal rise in the prices of capital goods since; and

(d) whether the Government would revise these upper limits to alleviate the hardship of the small scale manufacturers?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ZIAUR RAHMAN ANSARI): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d). The question of upward revision of limits on the value of machinery for small scale industries was discussed in the last meeting of the Small Scale Industries Board held on January 23, 1974 in view of the rise in machinery prices. The consensus at the meeting was in favour of retaining the existing limits.

Blacklisting of Messrs Hayat and Company of Bhavnagar by Government of Gujarat

3002. SHRI MADHU LIMAYE:

Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Gujarat has black-listed Messrs Hayat and Company of Bhavnagar;

(b) whether it is a fact that the State Government requested the Centre not to give them any licence for the manufacture of TV sets or other electronic goods;

(c) whether in spite of this request, the Government (Department of Electronics) has given this firm a licence for manufacturing of TV sets;

(d) if so, whether any outside pressure or influence has been responsible for this decision;

(e) whether this decision will be reversed and the black-listed firm proceeded against/boycotted/denied import and other licences; and

(f) whether action will be taken against the officers responsible for the unethical decision?

THE PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY, MINISTER OF ELECTRONICS AND MINISTER OF