

President's Assent to the Ordinance regarding S.K.V.A. Co-operative Pharmacy and Stores, Trichur

723. SHRI N. SREEKANTAN NAIR: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an Ordinance prepared by the Government of Kerala for acquisition and transfer of the S.K.V. A. Co-operative Pharmacy and Stores, Trichur to Pharmaceutical Corporation of Kerala is pending clearance; and

(b) if so, the reasons for delay in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI F. H. MOHSIN) (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise

Affiliation of Voluntary Organisations with Khadi and Village Industries

724. SHRI SHASHI BHUSHAN: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) the number and names of voluntary organisations connected with Khadi and Village Industries which are affiliated with the Association of Voluntary Agencies for Rural Development; and

(b) amount of grant provided by Government to these voluntary organisations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI A. P. SHARMA) (a) and (b) The development programmes of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission are implemented by two kinds of voluntary agencies, (i) institutions registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860, and (ii) co-operative registered under the respective State Co-operative Act.

In 1974-75 there were 700 institutions registered under the Societies Registration Act and around 24,000 co-operatives registered under the State Co-operative Acts. There is no institution called the "Association of Voluntary Agencies for Rural Develop-

ment," on the list of institutions directly assisted by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission is not aware whether any of the above registered institution and co-operatives are affiliated to the "Association of Voluntary Agencies for Rural Development"

Plans for Tribal Belt

725. SHRI N. K. SANGHI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Conference of Central and State Government officials was held in February, 1976 in Delhi to discuss plans for the tribal belt;

(b) if so, whether any decision was taken by the Conference to tone up the administration to achieve results within a time bound programme; and

(c) whether there is any proposal to step up Central funds for this purpose?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI F. H. MOHSIN) (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Conference reviewed the progress of streamlining the administrative arrangements for implementing the Sub-Plan. It was agreed that there should be adequate delegation of financial and administrative powers to the Project authorities. The personnel policies for tribal areas should also be urgently reviewed.

(c) Expenditure on strengthening and streamlining of administrative structure, in suitable cases, is allowed to be met from Special Central assistance for tribal sub-plans.

इण्डियन कोऑपरेटिव काँग्रेस की बैठक

726. श्री पद्मलाल बाइवाल : क्या उद्योग और नागरिक शक्ति मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि

(क) क्या इण्डियन कोऑपरेटिव काँग्रेस की सातवीं बैठक फरवरी, 1976 में दिल्ली में हुई थी, और

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसके द्वारा क्या निर्णय किये गये और उन्हें कार्यान्वित करने के लिए सरकार द्वारा क्या उपाय किये गये है ?

उद्योग और नागरिक पूर्ति मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री ए० सी० जार्ज) :
जी हा।

(ख) इस कांग्रेस का आयोजन भारतीय राष्ट्रीय सहकारी सघ द्वारा किया गया था। सघ ने अभी इस कांग्रेस की रिपोर्ट को अन्तिम रूप देना है, जिसमें उसकी सिफारिशें भी शामिल होंगी।

Improvement of Road Under B.R.D.B. Programme

727. SHRI BISWANARAYAN SHASTRI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have considered the improvement of the road under B.R.D.B. programme from Silapathar to Sonarighat with construction of permanent bridges; and

(b) if so, when the work is likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI BANSI LAL): (a) The road Silapathar to Sonarighat is crossed by a number of rivulets which receive excessive water from the river Brahmaputra during floods. Due to the erratic behaviour of river Brahmaputra and the non-existence of a well defined river bed, timber pile bridges are considered suitable for crossings in this area. Accordingly class 18 timber bridges have been constructed on this road which fully meet the traffic requirements.

(b) In view of the above, there are no plans at present for construction of permanent bridges on this road.

Two Year Tax Holiday for T.V. Industry

728. DR. RANEN SEN: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prime Minister received a memorandum in Bombay

recently, which suggests two year tax holiday for T.V. industry; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY, MINISTER OF ELECTRONICS AND MINISTER OF SPACE (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government have already indicated, through a Customs Notification dated February 16, 1976 that the import duty on the glass shells used in the manufacture of TV picture tubes would be reduced with immediate effect from 186 per cent to 75 per cent. According to the Union Budget for 1976-77, the excise duty on TV sets with an ex-factory price of Rs. 1800 and below is reduced to 5 per cent while for sets with an ex-factory price above Rs. 1800 the excise duty remains at 20 per cent *ad-valorem*. It immediate steps are now taken by industry to design simple, functional TV sets and to reduce their manufacturing and marketing costs in the many areas where this is possible, TV sets should become available to consumers at a considerably lower price than they are today. This would lead, in turn, to an expansion in demand for TV sets and, as a consequence, to growth in TV set production.

सीमेंट का उत्पादन

729. श्री मूलचन्द्र डागा : क्या उद्योग और नागरिक पूर्ति मंत्री यह नकाने की कृपा करेंगे कि

(क) इस समय देश में सीमेंट की आवश्यकता को देखते हुए, कितने सीमेंट का उत्पादन होता है ;

(ख) केन्द्रीय सरकार तथा राज्य सरकारों तथा सरकारी क्षेत्र के उपक्रमों द्वारा प्रत्यक्ष-प्रत्यक्ष इस सीमेंट के उत्पादन का कितना-कितना प्रतिशत खरीदा जाता है