

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The process of economic development does result in spontaneous change in the cultural life of the tribal. It is an accepted policy of the Government that while initiating legislation or administrative action care is taken to see that these do not unnecessarily interfere in the way of life of the tribal communities.

**Use of British system of Weights and Measures**

2745. SHRIMATI PREMALABAI CHAVAN: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether years after change over to metric system in India, the Engineering industry still continues to use British system of weights and measures to a large extent;

(b) whether it is mainly because the fastner industry was not changed over to metric standards as yet;

(c) the estimated percentage of large scale units still using British system; and

(d) steps Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI A. G. GEORGE): (a) to (d). In view of the fact that the engineering industry covers a variety of items and a number of them have problems because of their earlier collaborations with countries following non-metric system and with a view to ensuring that the production is not hampered, it was found necessary to bring about the change-over to the metric system in the engineering industries in two stages:

(i) conversion of the existing dimensions to metric system so as to eliminate the use of

old units, the use of which is prohibited under the Standards of Weights and Measures Act, 1956;

(ii) adoption of rational metricated standards involving change in actual dimensions of fastners etc.

The first stage has been implemented so far. The second stage requires a good deal of work such as preparation of new standards based on metric system, systematic redesigning of existing tools and systematic and gradual replacement of the existing tools etc., with the new ones.

It would not be correct to say that because of the fastner industries, the change-over to the metric system in the engineering industry has been slow. The Indian standards on fastner have been completely revised to have them on metric units. In June, 1955, a directive was issued that whenever any new plant and machinery is ordered or a new line of production established under any Central Ministry, care should be taken to ensure that equipment ordered as well as the line of production established is based on the metric system so that no transitional difficulties in respect of these arise in future. All possible steps are being taken to realise the second stage as early as possible.

**Financial Assistance for Power Generation in Orissa**

2746 SHRI D K PANDA: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to provide necessary finance for power generation in Orissa in the Central Sector as in other States; and

(b) if so, the broad features thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (PROF. SIDHESHWAR PRASAD): (a) It is not