

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Railways (Dr. Ram Subhag Singh): (a) No.

(b) Does not arise.

M/s. Indian Oxygen Ltd., Calcutta

2278. Shri H. N. Mukerjee:
Shri Mohammad Elias:

Will the Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that M/s Indian Oxygen Ltd., with its Head Office in Calcutta, has a virtual monopoly in India, and if so, to what extent;

(b) the amount of foreign capital invested in it and the percentage of its shares held by M/s. British Oxygen Ltd. of the U.K.;

(c) whether it has had since 1957 any expansion schemes and what they are; and

(d) if so, whether such schemes were approved by the Central Government?

The Minister of Heavy Engineering and Industry in the Ministry of Industry and Supply (Shri T. N. Singh):

(a) M/s. Indian Oxygen Ltd. are virtually the only manufacturers of Argon, Nitrous Oxide and gas cutting and welding equipment in the country. In the field of Oxygen, Dissolved Acetylene and Nitrogen there has been some decrease in the share of this firm in the country's total production but still they account for a substantial portion of country's total production for these gases. So far as welding electrodes and Hydrogen are concerned, units other than M/s Indian Oxygen, account for a major portion of country's production.

(b) The percentage of shareholding of M/s British Oxygen Co. Ltd., U.K. in the capital of M/s Indian Oxygen Ltd., is approximately 67.7 per cent. The shareholding of other non-residents is not significant.

(c) and (d). Since 1957 Government have approved firm's proposals

for expansion of their capacities for the manufacture of Oxygen, Dissolved Acetylene etc. at Bombay, Visakhapatnam, Jamshedpur, Burnpur, Madras, Calcutta, Delhi, Kanpur and Ahmedabad. Government have also approved the firm's proposals for expansion of their capacity for the manufacture of Gas Cutting and Welding Equipment and Continuous Special Electrodes at Calcutta and Mild Steel Electrodes at Madras.

Production of Steel Armour for Tanks

2279. Shri Yudhvir Singh:
Shri Hukam Chand
Kachhavaia:
Shri Bado:

Will the Minister of Steel and Mines be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production of steel armour for tanks has been started in Rourkela; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

The Minister of Steel and Mines (Shri Sanjiva Reddy): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Manufacture of Transformers and Capacitors

2280. Shri Daljit Singh: Will the Minister of Industry and Supply be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 203 on the 5th November, 1965 and state:

(a) the names of the members of the Committee appointed by the Central Government to consider and recommend the scheme of the Punjab Government to set up a new unit at Nangal for the manufacture of transformers and capacitors; and

(b) when the Committee will submit its recommendations?

The Minister of Heavy Engineering and Industry in the Ministry of Industry and Supply (Shri T. N. Singh):

(a) and (b). No Committee has been set up by the Government to