

Manufacture of Radio Receivers

2400. Shri Dandekar: Will the Minister of Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in 1964 the target of capacity for the manufacture of Radio Receivers to be reached by the end of 1966 was raised to nine lakhs;

(b) if so, the number of the then existing manufacturers who applied for the expansion of their licensed capacities, the increased capacity applied for by them and the increased capacity sanctioned to them;

(c) whether it is a fact that since 1964, licences have also been granted to some new concerns for the manufacture of Radio Receivers and if so, to how many and with what aggregate capacity;

(d) whether among these was a licence to manufacture about 40,000 Receivers sanctioned in favour of a new-comer without any manufacturing establishment or experience, who now plans to set up a factory in collaboration with a German firm; and

(e) if so, the reasons for granting such new licences despite the serious shortage of foreign exchange required for the import of capital goods, raw materials and components to keep even the existing plants in full production?

The Minister of Industry (Shri D. Sanjivayya): (a) No, Sir. The target of nine lakhs is the Third Plan Target as accepted by the Planning Commission (vide programme of Industrial Development 1961-66).

(b) The five existing radio manufacturers applied for expansion of their capacity. Their total licenced capacity was 199,000 Nos. These five units had asked for a total expansion capacity of 393,000 Nos. and expansion sanctioned to them was 141,000 Nos.

(c) Three new units have been given licences since 1964 for manufacture of radio receivers for a total

capacity of 85,000 Nos. On this, 40,000 Nos. in respect of an entirely new unit, 40,000 Nos. is in respect of a unit whose scheme was originally approved by the small scale sector for a capacity of 10,000 Nos. and the third unit was of an existing manufacturer producing other items such as Public Amplifying equipment and other allied items and he was given permission to manufacture radio receivers as an additional item for a capacity of 5,000 Nos.

(d) and (e). The new comer has been granted a licence for implementing a composite project of radios (40,000) and radio components for not only their own use but for supply to other manufacturers also. This party will be having technical collaboration with a West German firm who will be providing the foreign exchange required for capital goods by participating in the equity capital of the Indian Company to a maximum extent of 49 per cent. With the progressive increase in the production of components in the country, the requirement of foreign exchange for imported raw materials per radio receiver has gone down during the past 3 years. In fact, the overall production of radio receivers has increased substantially despite the reduced foreign exchange allocation, from 408,113 Nos. in 1963 to 470,524 Nos. in 1964 and to approximately 587,200 Nos. in 1965. It is expected that the new scheme, when implemented, would result in further saving of foreign exchange towards imported components.

Bookstalls on Railway Stations

2401. Shri Hem Raj:
Shri Bibhuti Mishra:

Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) what is the date and year up to which the agreement with M/S A. H. Wheeler for selling books on Railway stations lasts;