

(d) The information is being collected and will be placed on the table of the Sabha.

(e) The general issue of smuggling of *ganja* from Nepal into India was taken up with H.M.G. of Nepal in the past who assured the Government of India of their active cooperation in preventing smuggling of *ganja* to India. That Government also prohibited the export of *ganja* to India.

Medicines produced in the Country

5337. SHRI S. M. SOLANKI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES & METALS be pleased to state :

(a) the quantity of medicines produced in the country in 1968 and the amount invested for their production ;

(b) whether the country is self-sufficient in the production of medicines in the country ;

(c) if not, the steps taken to attain self-sufficiency in this regard ; and

(d) the number of factories in Gujarat where medicines are produced with their locations ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES AND METALS (SHRI D. R. CHAVAN) : (a) The value of drugs and pharmaceuticals produced in the country during 1968 has been estimated at Rs. 200 crores. It has not been possible to collect information relating to capital investment of all the units in the large scale and medium scale sectors. The capital assets of about 71 units as on the 1st April, 1968 work out to about Rst 140 crores.

(b) Near self-sufficiency has been achieved in the production of finished preparations of most of the drugs. These items are produced in the country either based on indigenously produced bulk drugs or from imported bulk materials. Bulk drugs which are produced indigenously in adequate quantities are not allowed to be imported. Imports are restricted to such of the items

as are necessary to supplement indigenous availability.

(c) The Drugs and Pharmaceutical Industry has been included in the list of 'PRIORITY' Industries and the requirement of imported raw materials, spares etc. of this industry are being met liberally with a view to achieving optimum production. Steps are also being taken to fill the gaps in the indigenous production of intermediates and technical materials subject to relevant economic and technical considerations.

(d) There are 12 large and medium scale factories in Gujarat producing drugs and pharmaceuticals—Seven in Baroda District, Three in Bulsar District and Two in Ahmedabad District.

Powerloom Holders in Maharashtra

5358. SHRI Z. M. KAHANDOLE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the loom-holders, who intend to run their powerlooms at a place other than the premises shown in the T.C. Permit, have to get the change approved immediately by the Excise Officer concerned ;

(b) whether it is also a fact that if a loom-holder expires, his legal heir has to get the T.C. Permit changed in his name immediately by the Excise Officer concerned ; and

(c) if so, how many such offices are situated in the Maharashtra State together with their strength ?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER & MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI MORARJI DESAI) : (a) and (b). Assuming that the intention is to refer to those manufacturers of cotton fabrics who are working under the Special Procedure commonly known as Compounded Levy Scheme, the position under the Central Excise Rules, 1944, is :

(a) if the holder of Central Excise Licence desires to transfer his business to a new premises he is required to intimate

his intention of doing so to the licensing authority 15 days in advance and get his licence suitably amended ; and

- (b) if a person claims to be the heir of the deceased licensee he is required to take out a fresh Central Excise licence.

A suitable change in the written permission of the Textile Commissioner obtained for the installation and working of powerlooms for the manufacture of such fabrics is also required to be made by the Textile Commissioner to enable the manufacturer to continue to discharge his duty liability at normal compounded rates.

(c) There are 42 Superintendents with offices. They are assisted by 202 Inspectors and 107 Sub-Inspectors.

Korba Aluminium Project

5359. SHRI D.V. SINGH : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS AND MINES & METALS be pleased to state :

(a) the progress made so far in the construction of the Korba Aluminium Project indicating separately the present stage of each work thereunder including the smelter ;

(b) the time by which the smelter will be commissioned and other works will be complete d ; and

(c) whether the project will be completed within the originally estimated cost and scheduled time and, if not, how far the cost estimates and the period are likely to be exceeded ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & CHEMICALS AND MINES & METALS (SHRI JAGANATH RAO) : (a) The progress made so far in the construction of the Korba Aluminium Project is indicated below unit-wise :

I. *Alumina Plant* : The 1st phase of the Korba Aluminium Project, viz., Alumina Plant, is under construction. The

progress with regard to the various items of work is indicated below :—

(i) *Civil Works* : Work relating to site development, railway network etc. is in progress.

(ii) *Plant Construction* : Tenders have been called for in respect of most of the technological equipment with a view to fixing up the contractors for fabrication, erection and commissioning of the equipment. Of these, tenders for the following have already been finalised and letters of intent issued :—

- (1) Instrumentation and Control ;
- (2) Electrical : Motors, Starters, Distributors etc.
- (3) Steam Plant.

(iii) *Mines* : Letter of intent for the supply, erection, and commissioning of the Ropeways at Amarkantak and Phutkapahar has been issued to the selected contractor. Work relating to the Railway siding, taking off from Pendra Road Station, and mines development is in progress.

(iv) *Township* : The Master Plan for the township at Korba is under finalisation. In the meantime, construction of 240 Nos. Type II quarters, is in progress.

(v) *Enebling Works* : Work on the contraction of site offices, temporary railway siding (taking off from Madhya Pradesh Electricity Board siding at Korba), submersible bridge/approach road to Plant Site during construction, and quarters for work-charged staff, is in progress.

II. *Smelter and Fabrication Units* : For the 2nd phase of the Project, viz., Smelter and Fabrication facilities, the Detailed Project Report is under preparation.

(b) According to present indications, the Smelter is expected to be commissioned some time in 1973-74. The Alumina Plant is scheduled to be commissioned in October, 1971.

(c) It is too early to indicate at this stage whether there would be any deviations from the present time schedules and estimated costs ; further the cost estimates and time-schedules of the second phase of the Project i.e. Smelter and Fabrication units are yet to be finalised.