

authority as they had not made a request for the treatment of suspension period as leave due.

(c) The suspension period of the five employees could be regularised as leave due if they had made such a request in accordance with the rules regulating such cases but no such request has been received from them.

**Production of Watches by H. M. T. in Collaboration with Japan**

1305. SHRI K. M. MADHUKAR :  
 SHRI DHIRESHWAR KALITA :  
 SHRI P. C. ADICHAN :  
 SHRI RABI RAY :  
 SHRI C. JANARDHANAN :  
 SHRI G. VENKATASWAMY :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNAL TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the scheme submitted by the Hindustan Machine Tools for expansion of its watch production with Japanese collaboration has been considered ; and

(b) if so, what decision has been taken thereon ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNAL TRADE (SHRI M. R. KRISHNA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government have approved of the scheme submitted by Hindustan Machine Tools Ltd. for expansion of their watch production with Japanese collaboration.

**Machine Building Capacity**

1306 SHRI N. SHIVAPPA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNAL TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that due to the absence of adequate machine building capacity in the country rapid growth of the plastic processing sector is being impaired ; and

(b) the steps Government propose to take to meet the gap in respect of the machine building capacity ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNAL TRADE (SHRI M. R. KRISHNA) : (a) The existing capacity for manufacture of plastic processing machinery is not adequate to meet the growing demand for such machinery.

(b) A few schemes for creation of additional capacity for the manufacture of plastic processing machinery is under the active consideration of the Government. Government have also recently published through a Press Note an illustrative list of items where there is likely to be sustained demand and scope for investment and creation of additional capacity. Plastic Processing machinery is included in that list.

**Self-sufficiency in Telephone Cables**

1307. SHRI ARJUN SINGH BHADORIA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNAL TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether India is self-sufficient in telephone cables ; and

(b) if not, the steps that are being taken to achieve self-sufficiency in this regard ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNAL TRADE (SHRI M. R. KRISHNA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) (i) The capacity for manufacture of Dry Core Tele-communication Cables at the Rupnarainpur Factory of M/s. Hindustan Cables Ltd., is being expanded from 3,200 K. M. per annum to 8,000 K. M. per annum on double shift basis.

(ii) A letter of intent has been issued to M/s. Traco Cables Co. Ltd., Ernakulam, Kerala for a capacity of 1000 K.M. per annum Telecommunication Cables.