

(b) whether it is also a fact that the construction of the main bridge was completed long ago;

(c) whether it is further a fact that earth work for connecting the bridge with the road has been delayed inordinately as a result of which commissioning of the bridge is being delayed; and

(d) if so, whether Government have fixed any firm date for completing this over-bridge and when will it be opened to traffic ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NANDA) : (a) Yes.

(b) Yes.

(c) Yes, there has been some delay in completion of earth work on the approaches.

(d) No. The earth work on approaches is being done by C. P. W. D. and is still in progress. After the earth work is completed, the approach slab adjoining the main bridge will be provided by the railway and the bridge commissioned thereafter.

Effect of Raising Exemption Limit on Industrial Licensing

3777. SHRI BAL RAJ MADHOK : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNAL TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that limit for setting up new industries without licence has been raised to Rs. One crore from Rs. 25 lakhs;

(b) whether it is also a fact that this decision has affected small industries with small capital adversely; and

(c) if so, the reasons for taking the decision referred to in part (a) above ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNAL TRADE (SHRI M. R. KRISHNA) : (a) to (c). With a view to further stimulate and broad-base industrial development and to encourage small and

medium entrepreneurs so that they could set up industrial undertakings without going through the process of obtaining an industrial licence, the exemption limit has been raised from Rs. 25 lakhs to Rs. 1 crore. 55 items have been reserved for the small-scale sector and more items are proposed to be reserved. A number of other steps have also been taken to promote the growth of small-scale industries. Government does not consider that small industries will be affected because of the changes announced in licensing policy.

Demonstration by Children of Harijans of Jhuggi Basties

3778. SHRI BAL RAJ MADHOK : Will the Minister of LAW AND SOCIAL WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether thousands of children of Harijans and Jhuggi Basties demonstrated before Prime Minister's house on 14th November, 1970 to draw her attention to their pitiable plight;

(b) whether a memorandum was submitted on their behalf to the Prime Minister detailing various social welfare measures that are needed to improve their conditions; and

(c) if so, what were the main demands and suggestions for the welfare of the poor children and the reaction of Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE (SHRI JAGANATH RAO) : (a) to (c). A procession of Harijan children led by Shri M. L. Sondhi, M. P., Shri Ram Swaroop Vidyarthi, M. P. and others demonstrated before the Prime Minister's House on 14-11-1970 and handed over a memorandum containing various demands relating to nutrition, clothes, education and medical aid etc. for Backward Class children and employment opportunities for Backward Classes. The Government are aware of the various problems of the Backward Classes including their children and are taking various measures for their social, educational and economic uplift. These measures are being expanded under the Fourth Plan.