

Closure of Sick Units

3639. SHRI J. CHOKKA RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the provisions of Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 and inadequate staff in the official liquidators office attached to various High Courts are clogging the process of closing the sick industrial units thus blocking the exist policy of the Government; and

(b) if so, the steps proposed to accelerate the process of closing sick units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): (a) No, Sir. Under the provisions of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947 an employer is required to apply to the appropriate Government at least ninety days before the date of intended closure. If the appropriate Government does not communicate the Order granting or refusing to grant permission within a period of sixty days from the date of the application, the permission applied for shall be deemed to have been granted on the expiration of the said period of sixty days.

(b) Does not arise.

Losses by Hindustan Paper Corporation Limited

3640. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the accumulated loss sustained by the Hindustan Paper Corporation Limited as per latest figures;

(b) the causes for such losses;

(c) whether paper products including paper board and newsprint worth Rs. 45 crores are lying unsold with the Corporation;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(e) the measures proposed to dispose of the unsold stock of paper and paper products?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI P.K. THUNGON): (a) Accumulated loss upto February, 1992 is Rs. 387 crore (provisional and unaudited).

(b) Infrastructural and operational problems relating mainly to power, transportation and manpower.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Fall in orders from State Government due to paucity of funds, tight money market position leading to slow off take by bulk purchasers and availability of cheaper variety of imported newsprint.

(e) Credit facility and other incentives to bulk consumers.

Closure of HMT Repair Shops

3641. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether as a part of privatisation of its sales activities, the Hindustan Machine Tools Limited (HMT) has closed its watch repair counter in its show room located in Parliament Street, New Delhi;

(b) if so, the reasons for handing over such remunerative business to the private sector;

(c) whether the Government are aware that these so called authorised sales and service agents in the capital are charging very exorbitant and fantastic rates for even petty repairs/jobs; and

(d) whether the Government propose to re-open its repair shop in its existing show room in the capital and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI P.K. THUNGON): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) HMT 's authorised service agents in Delhi and elsewhere in the country are appointed as per Company's norms in terms of facility and equipment available for repairing. Also HMT has a fixed standard schedule of charges for different repair jobs.

(d) Does not arise in view of the reply at (a) above

Funds for Import of Fertilizers

3642. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have allocated Rs. 2,000 crores (\$ 800 million) in hard currency for immediate purchase of fertilizers;

(b) if so, the reasons there for;

(c) how these fertilizers will be priced, distributed and sold to the farmers; and

(d) the steps taken to step up production of fertilizers in the county - both in the public and private sectors?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (DR. CHINTA MOHAN): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Foreign exchange is required to finance the import of fertiliser in which we are not fully self-sufficient.

(c) The maximum price of fertiliser per tonne is fixed by Government and the consumer price of fertiliser is uniform throughout the country. The fluctuation in the price of imported fertiliser is absorbed by Government and this has no bearing on the price paid by the farmer. The fertiliser is distributed in the country through the network of dealers both under the cooperative and public sector.

(d) The Eighth-Five Year Plan envisages the setting up of new units and also expansion of certain existing units. The modernisation, rehabilitation and retrofitting of some of the existing plants are also being considered in the interest of increase in the production.

Transport Subsidy to Andaman and Nicobar Islands

3643. SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the claims of transport subsidy from the Union Territory of Andaman and Nicobar Islands are lying pending with the Union Government; and

(b) if so, the time by which these claims are likely to be settled?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (PROF. P.J. KURIEN): (a) and (b). The Union Territory Administration of Andaman and Nicobar Islands has submitted two claims amounting to Rs. 2,79,15, 674/- under the Transport Subsidy Scheme. The eligible claims will be paid when funds become available.

Industrial Growth Centres In Karnataka

3644. SHRI S.B. SIDNAL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state: