

for the year 1987-88 is estimated to be Rs. 79.99 crores.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Question does not arise.

**Cases against O.N.G.C. officers**

\*656. SHRIMATI N.P. JHANSI LAKSHMI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the CBI has been investigating cases against some officers of the Oil and Natural Gas Commission;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof; and

(c) the action taken against the officials, if found guilty ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI BRAHMA DUTT) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) During 1986-87, reports have been received from the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) in 13 cases involving 29 officers of ONGC. Action has been initiated against 16 officers, action against one officer has been dropped and cases of remaining 12 officers are under examination.

**Proposal to merge public undertakings**

\*658. SHRI SOMJIBHAI DAMOR : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considering proposals for merging the public undertakings/enterprises which are running in to losses with some other organisations; and

(b) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

**Closure of National Bicycle Corporation of India Ltd. and Cycle Corporation of India Ltd.**

\*659. DR. DATTA SAMANT : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have taken a decision to close down the National Bicycle Corporation of India Limited and the Cycle Corporation of India Limited;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) what efforts Government have made to revive these units in the past five years ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO) : (a) No, Sir,

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Government has been extending financial assistance on a yearly basis such as plan and non-plan loans for modernisation, replacement of machinery and working capital needs, increase in bank credit backed by Government guarantee, etc.

**Joint venture for manufacture of Silica**

\*664. SHRI PRAKASH CHANDRA : SHRI SITARAM J. GAVALI :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to the news item captioned "Bhartias, Degussat up for Rs. 40 crore Silica project" appearing in the 'Economic Times' date 16 March, 1988 wherein it has been stated that the House of Bhartias has tied up with West German multinational Degussa A.G. to promote Rs. 40 crore venture to manufacture Silica for the first time in the country;

(b) If so, the reasons for giving permission to a private concern for joint venture for such item; and

(c) whether Government propose to set up Silica industry in the public sector and if not, the reasons thereof ?