

PABXs, teleprinters, data communication equipment, etc.

As a follow up of the industrial policy statement of July, 1980, Government have taken several measures to improve productivity in industry and to achieve better utilisation of installed capacities. As a result, there has been appreciable increase in industrial growth.

The following schemes deserve special mention :

- (i) With a view to encourage larger volume of production and to provide flexibility to the manufacturers to adjust their product-mix depending upon the market demand schemes of broad-banding have been announced in respect of the following industries :
 - (a) Machine tools
 - (b) Motorised 2-wheelers
 - (c) Motorised 4-wheelers vehicles
 - (d) Paper and Pulp
- (c) Chemicals, pharmaceutical, petrochemical and fertilizer machinery industry
- (ii) 25 broad categories have been de-licensed for non-MRTP/non-FERA companies, if the item of manufacture is not reserved for small scale and the industrial undertaking is not to be located in metropolitan cities/big cities.
- (iii) The thresh-hold limit for MRTP companies has been raised from Rs. 20 crores to Rs. 100 crores.
- (iv) Investment limit for small scale has been raised from Rs. 20 lakhs to Rs. 35 lakhs and for Ancillary undertakings from Rs. 25 lakhs to Rs. 45 lakhs.
- (v) The procedure for clearance to engage foreign technician has been streamlined.

Increase in production is expected to create competition and stabilize prices of industrial goods. With a view to ensure production of quality goods, ISI standards are prescribed for a large number of products.

Inquiry Regarding Major Blast at the Cochin Refinery

*100. SHRI S.M. GURADDI : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state :

- (a) whether Government had ordered any inquiry into the incident of major blast at the Cochin Refinery recently ;
- (b) whether the investigation committee has made any report ;
- (c) if so, the details thereof ;
- (d) whether any person have been held responsible ; and
- (e) whether any compensation has been paid to the employees and the local people whose properties have been confiscated.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM (SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA) : (a) and (b) : The Government appointed an Inquiry Committee to ascertain the cause of the fire in CRL, Ambalamugal on 8th March, 1984 and to recommend suitable measures to avoid its recurrence in future. The Committee submitted its report on 29th June, 1984.

(c) The Committee identified the cause for explosion and fire to be the formation of massive vapour cloud over a vast area and its contact with a hot source. The Committee had recommended for the improvement of fire fighting facilities, process facilities and procedures, lay out, administrative procedures and training of the personnel.

(d) Government's displeasure has been conveyed to top management for system and management failure. Local management has initiated action against their employees.

(e) Ex-gratia and compensation has been paid to the employees killed/injured in the accident. Compensation to the extent of Rs. 10.89 lacs for the loss of public property has been paid to 450 claimants. The remaining claims are being scrutinised and are expected to be settled in about three months.

Rehabilitation of Workers of Sick Industries

451. SHRI SYED MASUDAL HOSSAIN : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are concerned about the fate of vast working forces who are in the sick industries in the country; and

(b) if so, concrete steps taken by Government to rehabilitate them ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Measures for revival of sick units are taken in the light of policy guidelines announced in October, 1981. Banks and financial institutions formulate rehabilitation schemes on the basis of diagnostic studies in respect of units which are considered by them as potentially viable. Government also would provide such concessions and reliefs as may be required for rehabilitation of such sick units as a part of the package of assistance considered necessary by the banks and financial institutions. Nature and extent of assistance required for rehabilitation of viable sick unit varies from unit to unit depending on the nature and extent of sickness of each unit. However, steps taken to rehabilitate potentially viable sick unit include the following :

1. Take-over of management under Industries (Development and Regulation) Act;

2. Re-scheduling of loan and interest liabilities in respect of loans and grant of concessional loan assistance ;

3. Grant of income tax benefit on merger of sick companies with healthy companies under Section 72-A of the Income Tax Act ; and

4. Margin money scheme for sick small scale unit.

Closing of taken over Sick Industries

452. SHRI ZAINAL ABEDIN : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of taken over sick industries which have been closed down without going through a thorough examination about their possible viability/potentiality by expansion and modernisation ; and

(b) the names of the units where a thorough examination was held ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN) : (a) and (b) ; No industrial undertaking taken over for management under Industries (Development and Regulation) Act has been denotified without careful examination of its future viability.

Places Earmarked for Drilling and Exploration of Oil and Gas in Eastern and North-Eastern Region

453. SHRI HANNAN MOLLAH : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM be pleased to state :

(a) the names of the places which have been earmarked by the ONGC for drilling and exploration of oil and gas in the eastern