

so much more expensive. But now as the cost of petrol is going up, people are paying greater attention to other resources.

SHRI NIREN GHOSH: Sun is the source of all energy. Naturally, we should try to draw upon it. With regard to various experiments that are being conducted in various parts of the country which have been referred to, may I know whether there is any indication that solar energy can be developed on a commercial basis so that we can apply it to our daily uses to replace petrol and petroleum products. If so, is the Government thinking of any steps in that direction to make available solar energy for immediate use?

SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL: In the immediate future, solar energy will not replace or provide a large part of bulk power generation. So the question of it replacing petrol or diesel does not arise. Its real use will be on a decentralised basis to provide energy where it is needed, particularly in rural areas for grain drying, water heating, pumping for irrigation purpose etc.

SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI: It is already being used, for instance, for water heating, even in some of the big hotels here, in private places and so on. I am sure that its use will grow.

Collaboration with U.S. Container Manufacturing Firm

*450. **SHRI P. M. SAYEED:** Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether U.S. container manufacturing firm is willing to establish production capacities in India with an assured marketing back up;

(b) if so, whether India has agreed to allow the firm to set up the unit in India;

(c) whether industrial experts have welcomed this proposal; and

(d) if so, to what extent this will be advantageous to India?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI P. VENKATA REDDY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

SHRI P. M. SAYEED: I understand that Indian industrialists are not coming forward because of the procedural delays. So, will the Government simplify the procedure so that the Indian industrialists can have this technology by collaboration?

SHRI P. VENKATA REDDY: Already, concessions have been offered to those manufacturing containers; licences have been issued to so many people, but they have not started it so far. So there is no question of collaboration difficulties. Government have agreed to it, but still they are not in a position to manufacture them.

SHRI P. M. SAYEED: People have not come forward on account of the procedural hurdles that are created. That was my first question; I do not know whether the Minister followed it.

My second question is this: it is reported in the press that an American firm is at present prepared to offer certain container manufacturing technology to India in preference to China, which is very keen to have this technology. Will the Government assure the House that proper evaluation will be done—as the container industry's future does not appear to be good—before any agreement is entered into with this firm by Indian industrialists?

SHRI P. VENKATA REDDY: As I have said earlier, there is no use conferring more concessions on those who have come forward to use the container manufacturing technology in this country. As far as the Indian companies are concerned; the Dalmia Industries Ltd. have submitted an application to the Government seeking collaboration with a U.S. firm, which will be considered.

SHRI P. M. SAYEED: Evaluation of the technology is a must before entering into any agreement because, the future does not appear to be good. So I asked whether the Government will ensure, before giving any permission to the collaborator, about its soundness.

SHRI P. VENKATA REDDY: Government have given liberal concessions to manufacturers, but they have not been in a position to manufacture containers in sizeable numbers in collaboration with foreigners also. Therefore, there is no question of evaluating this again.

SHRI XAVIER ARAKAL: Which are the firms in India which are doing this container manufacturing and how many containers have been manufactured and sent by the firms here?

I would also like to bring to the notice of the Hon. Minister that even in the Cochin Shipyard, though they had asked for engines, they were not supplied. The main problem is that they are not supplied with the equipment and machinery in time. Therefore, will the Minister say which are the firms which are doing this container manufacturing business here and how many have released them from the firms?

SHRI P. VENKATA REDDY: There are eight companies, of which licences have been granted to five—two companies have gone into production and three companies have not yet started production. Letters of intent have been given to three companies. Shall I mention the names? M/s. Khira ASDEC Containers Ltd., Poona, and M/s. Transfreight Containers Ltd., Tarapore, have started production. M/s. Balmer Lawrie & Co., Ltd., Bombay, M/s. Bridge & Roof Co. (I) Ltd., Calcutta and M/s. Sea Lord Containers Limited, Bombay, have not yet started production, but licences have been granted to them.

Setting up of Industries in J & K

*451. **SHRI GHULAM RASOOL KOCHACK:** Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Union Government have decided to set up new industries in the Jammu & Kashmir State during 1980-81;

(b) if so, what are the industries likely to be set up;

(c) in what areas these will be set up;

(d) whether Union Government have also decided to set up industries in the hilly, backward and tribal areas in the country and also in the J & K State; and

(e) if so, whether the areas have also been selected in the State of J & K?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI P. VENKATA REDDY): (a): Yes, Sir.

(b) Hindustan Machine Tools Precision Instrument Factory.

(c) At Srinagar.

(d) and (e). Setting up of Industries in Public Sector is constantly under examination depending on Techno-economic Consideration and Financial Resources.

SHRI GHULAM RASOOL KOCHACK: May I know whether the hon. Minister is aware of the fact that Jammu & Kashmir State is one of the most industrially backward States which is the root cause of acute unemployment and acute poverty although it is treated as a paradise on earth. If so, what steps have been taken so far and what steps are proposed to be taken to bring the State at par with the developed areas under the Central industrial development policy? Is the hon. Minister aware of the peculiar climatic conditions of the State which result in unemployment for six