

News Item "Quiet MNC Entry into Electronics"

*634. SHRI M. RAM GOPAL REDDY:
SHRI CHINTAMANJ;
PANIGRAHI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to news-item 'Quiet MNC entry into electronics' published in Business Standard dated 4th February, 1981;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI-MATI INDIRA GANDHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). In June, 1979 the Directorate of Communications Policy Wireless (DCPW) of the Ministry of Home Affairs needed 1500 nos of VHF transreceivers for which they had placed an indent on DGS&D. ECIL (Electronics Corporation of India), PWSL (Punjab Wireless) and WTIL (West Bengal Tele-communication Industries) quoted against the DGS&D tender. The bid evaluation was taking time, and DCPW urgently needed, in connection with arrangements for the Lok Sabha elections to be held in the first week of January, 1980 as many transreceivers as they could get by end December 1979. Therefore, DGS&D, permitted DCPW to purchase 450 transreceivers directly from any of the three companies which had bid. Based on speed of delivery, these 450 sets were purchased by DCPW from PWSL. Further, due to DCPW again needing more transreceivers in connection with the elections to some of the State Assemblies, DGS&D placed an order for a further 500 transreceivers on PWSL in May 1980 as they were the only one of the three companies which could provide the required number of sets in time frames stipulated by DCPW. For the remaining 550 transreceivers required by DCPW for delivery by September 1980, in response to enqui-

ries sent by DGS&D, only ECIL and PWSL confirmed being able to supply sets by that deadline. Therefore, orders for 400 transreceivers were placed on ECIL and 150 transreceivers on PWSL. As such, there has been no preferential treatment according to PWSL. At no stage were any orders withdrawn from WTIL and placed on PWSL. In late 1980, a new tender for 2500 transreceivers for DCPW has been floated by DGS&D and Government have decided in January 1981, that WTIL's bid against that tender could also be considered from the industrial licensing and foreign collaboration point of view, subject to their prices and deliveries being competitive. It may also be pointed out that the foreign collaboration which PWSL has for manufacture of these VHF transreceiver is a purely technical collaboration without any foreign equity, and that the collaborator, Messrs REPCO of USA is not a multinational company but rather a medium-sized US company. As for the technical collaboration which PWSL have entered into for the manufacture of HF Single Band Transmitters and Transreceivers for Civil Aviation Air Force and other users, it is also a technical collaboration without any foreign equity, and the collaborator Messrs. Harris Corporation of USA is also not a multinational company. However, in the case of WTIL, 40 per cent of the equity is held by M/s. pieco Electricals and Electronics, which is a subsidiary of the multinational company M/s Philips (Holland).

Dispute in Grindlays Bank as a Result of Mechanization

*635. SHRI ARIF MOHAMMAD KHAN: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any outstanding dispute between Grindlays Bank and its employees concerning mechanization of certain operations and consequent displacement of permanent employees;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by Government to settle the dispute?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRIMATI RAM DULARI SINHA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The dispute, inter-alia, related to the scope for further extension of mechanisation in offices and branches of the Grindlays Bank Ltd. in India and has been referred to a National Industrial Tribunal in February, 1980 whose award is awaited.

Difficulties Faced by the North-Eastern Region Engineering Units

*636. SHRI K. PRADHANI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Engineering Units in the North-Eastern region are experiencing great difficulties and had been forced to cut their production following the non-availability of the required steel materials from the integrated steel plants; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI CHARANJIT CHANANA): (a) and (b). There has been shortfall in the production of saleable steel by the integrated steel plants. The Engineering Units in the North Eastern region have been affected by this general shortage, as also by the transport problems peculiar to the region. Steps to augment the availability of required materials in the North Eastern region have been taken and supplies during the year 1981-82 have been planned on an enhanced scale.

Review of recruitment/promotion rules re. scheduled castes and scheduled Tribe in Government Service

*637. SHRI BHEEKHABAI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that the recruitment/promotion rules relating to representation of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe in Government service and public undertakings need a comprehensive review in view of huge shortfalls and backlogs in Government employment;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to *suo moto* undertake review of rules;

(c) whether Government intend to convene a meeting of Members of Parliament belonging to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe; and

(d) if so, when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) and (b). The shortfall in representation in Govt. employment is mainly in the 'A' and 'B' groups for Scheduled Castes and by and large in all the groups for Scheduled Tribes. This shortfall is not to be related to any deficiency in the recruitment/ promotion rules and as such, no comprehensive review of rules is indicated at present.

(c) and (d). Do not arise in view of reply to (a) and (b) above.

Launching of Karnataka Blades Ltd.

*638. SHRI K. MALLANNA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a private Firm Karnataka Blades Ltd. has been jointly launched by the Karnataka Industrial Development Corporation and Asian Cables;

(b) if so, the details regarding its production capacity; and

(c) when it is likely to start functioning?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI CHARANJIT CHANANA): (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

1. A letter of intent was issued to the Karnataka State Industrial Investment and Development Corporation