

(b) Government of India do not maintain statistics of this nature.

Losses Incurred by Scooters India Ltd.

*260. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Scooters India Limited continues to suffer losses year after year, despite the modifications effected in the scooters manufactured by it;

(b) if so, the extent of loss suffered by it during 1980-81 and the preceding two years;

(c) the main reasons for the continuing losses; and

(d) the steps being and have been taken to make the enterprise viable and profitable?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND LABOUR (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI): (a) and (b). Scooters India Limited has incurred losses as detailed below:—

	(Rs. in lakhs)
1978-79	474.54
1979-80	445.42
1980-81	490.02

(c) The losses are mainly due to the low volume of production and heavy interest burden.

(d) Proposals are under-way for diversification into new products with reference to market trends, for raising of production of various items of manufacture and for funding of additional investments and facilities required to achieve increased productivity and higher production volumes.

Diversification Programmes of H.E.C.

*261. SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the new product diversification programmes being considered or to be

undertaken by the Heavy Engineering Corporation;

(b) whether the Heavy Engineering Corporation has entered or propose to enter into the export market this year; and

(c) if so, the names of such countries and the extent of export likely to be made to those countries?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND LABOUR (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI): (a) HEC have recently taken up the manufacture of Walking draglines and over-burden drills and plan to go in for the manufacture of 10 M³ shovels, rollgrinding machines, vertical turning and boring machines and Plano-Milling Machines.

(b) The company are already in the export market.

(c) HEC are exporting their products to Cuba, Turkey, Bulgaria, the USSR, Egypt and Bangladesh. At present export orders valued at Rs. 49 crores remain to be executed against pending orders. It is, however, not possible to predict their future export business as this would depend on enquiries received from abroad and HEC's ability to meet the requirements.

~~SHRI~~

Use of Air as Fuel .

*262. SHRI OSCAR FERNANDES: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that recently an engineer from Shimoga District in Karnataka State has proved that 'Air' could be used as fuel for the purpose of running vehicles;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the incentives Government propose to give to the Engineer to perfect the Technology?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI-MATI INDIRA GANDHI): (a) to (c). A fuelless Electro Air Engine is reported to have been developed by an engineer in Karnataka which can be operated on compressed air supplied by a compressor which runs on 12 volt Batteries. The batteries can be charged by a dynamo directly coupled to a fan which is mounted on the top of the vehicle which rotates as the vehicle moves forward.

The feasibility and applicability of the claim are being examined and the question of providing suitable incentives for further development will be considered after this examination is completed.

Industrial Strategy for Expanding Major Public Undertakings in West Bengal

*263. SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE:

SHRI NIREN GHOSH:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Finance Minister of West Bengal discussed with him on 26th August, 1981 in New Delhi regarding the industrial strategy and the future expansion of the major public undertakings under Industry Ministry located in West Bengal;

(b) whether he has received a letter from him regarding the above mentioned subject dated 10th September, 1981; and

(c) the details of action taken by his Ministry thereon?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND LABOUR (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) In his letter, the Finance Minister of West Bengal seems to feel

without justification, that industrial development in West Bengal has suffered in recent years due to neglect by the Central Government. The facts, being otherwise, a suitable reply is being sent to him.

Resignation by Scientists

*264. SHRI BAPUSAHEB PARULEKAR:

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN:

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that four scientists of the Department of Science and Technology have quit their jobs;

(b) the particulars of the scientists and grounds of resignation;

(c) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the news item in *Times of India*, Bombay edition dated 3 October, 1981 under the caption 'Scientists quit DST jobs in frustration'; and

(d) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI-MATI INDIRA GANDHI): (a) Yes, Sir, Two scientists belonged to the Department of Environment and two to the Department of Science and Technology.

(b) A statement giving the particulars of the scientists and the grounds of resignation is laid on the Table of the House.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) As explained in the statement referred in para (b) of the reply, the scientists resigned for personal reasons. No action on the part of the Government is called for.