

ed. The quota of Bihar for the Training Centre, Meru (Hazaribagh) is 30 per cent; for Orissa, it is 5 per cent; West Bengal—25 per cent; Eastern U.P.—10 per cent, Mizoram—10 per cent and other parts—20 per cent. This is the prescribed quota. According to that, the recruitment is done.

Import of Machines for Manufacture of Card-Board Match Boxes

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*658. SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY:
SHRI S. A. DORAI
SEBASTIAN.

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have sanctioned the import of an automatic machine costing Rs. 93 lakhs for the manufacture of card board match boxes by the non-mechanised small sector of match industry;

(b) if so, whether this will lead to the closure of many cottage sector/small match units; and

(c) if so, the steps proposed to be taken to protect the tiny match units?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI CHARANJIT CHANANA): (a): No, Sir. No licence for the import of Special Offset Printing Machine capable of printing match labels on card board and converting them into match boxes (outer) has yet been issued.

(b) and (c). Do not arise.

SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY: Sir, the last sentence of the answer of the hon. Minister may look very simple. But in view of the fact that our State is full of cottage match units this is a very serious matter. I would like to draw your attention to the last sentence of the answer that first they have agreed that no licence has been issued but in the end it has been stated that it has not yet been issued. In view of that, I want to know whether it is the

Government intention to sanction the import of such machinery into the country. The Finance Minister, in his Budget Speech, has very clearly pointed out that the middle sector in the match industry will not be allowed to make inroads into the cottage and small-scale industry for the manufacture of matches. If this machinery is being allowed in the country, I would like to remind the House that the entire cottage match industry in the southern States will be closed and will be very much adversely affected. May I ask the hon. Minister whether it is a fact that one of the tycoons in the middle sector of the match industry, that is, the Pioneer Match Company, has applied for a licence for the import of the machinery and if so, what is the Government's attitude towards that and whether this matter is pending?

SHRI CHARANJIT CHANANA: Firstly, the Company has applied for a licence; secondly, the licence has not been issued and, thirdly, in regard to what the hon. Member has said in the preface to his question, I have only to assure the House that nothing would be permitted at the cost of cottage and small-scale industry at all. The first priority is the promotion of small-scale and cottage industry.

SHRI K. RAMAMURTHY: The Andhra Pradesh Cottage Industries Association has also pointed out the very same fact that I have put forth here. Moreover, I had written a letter to the hon. Prime Minister sometime in the month of May about this matter. She has very kindly replied to me stating that this matter has been forwarded to the Industry Minister. I appreciate her immediate action over that. But so far I have not received any reply in regard to this matter from the Industry Minister. I would like to know from the hon. Minister, before taking any decision over this matter, whether he will take into

account all these suggestions put-forth today.

SHRI CHARANJIT CHANANA: I have only to confirm what I have said.

SHRI S. A. DORAI SEBASTIAN: I would like to know from the hon. Minister if the Import Policy allows such kind of a machinery for manufacture of Card-Board Match boxes being imported in the country, as the hon. Minister is aware, the import of this kind of machinery will definitely adversely affect the cottage and small-scale match industry and, if that is so, why the Government is not banning the import of this machinery from the list of Import Policy.

SHRI CHARANJIT CHANANA: If the hon. Member's suggestion is in regard to the import policy, he will have to refer his question to the Commerce Minister.

SHRI S. A. DORAI SEBASTIAN: The hon. Minister is aware that the import of such machinery will definitely affect the small-scale and cottage industry. Why does not the Minister come forward to ban the import of such machinery from the list of import Policy?

SHRI CHARANJIT CHANANA: I have already said and I confirm that we will not permit anything at all which comes in clash with the growth of cottage industry or small-scale industry. There is already a ban on that particular thing. Anything which comes in conflict with the growth of cottage and small-scale industry is already banned.

SHRI K. KUNHAMBU: May I know from the hon. Minister whether the Government have received any representation from the cottage match manufacturers of Kerala requesting to keep in abeyance the decision of the Government regarding excise duty till the units in Kerala are brought under KVIC and, if so, what action Government propose to take?

SHRI CHARANJIT CHANANA: I shall have to check up about this particular representation because I do not have the details about it.

Development of Electronic Watch Industry

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*660. **SHRI K. MALLANNA:**
SHRI CHINTAMANI JENA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of Government to take effective steps to develop the electronic watch industry within the framework of the industrial and technology policy on electronic watches; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND SPACE (SHRI VIJAY N. PATIL): (a) and (b). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

(a) and (b). The Industrial and Technology Policy on the Electronic Watch Industry as approved by the Government in April 1980 is set out in the annexure.

The following steps have been taken by Government to implement the Policy:—

(i) The applications for industrial licences/small scale approvals for Digital Electronic Watches (DEWs), which have been received, are being actively processed in accordance with the provisions of the Industrial and Technology Policy on Electronic Watches.

(ii) For both analogue and digital electronic watches, import of all electronic watch modules and the electronic components going into such modules has been canalised through the public sector company of the Department of Electronics, M/s. Semiconductor Complex Ltd., with effect from July 3, 1980.