

Quality of X-Ray Film produced in Public Sector Project

*126 SHRI N K SANGHI Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the report appearing in the *Hindustan Times* dated the 23rd January, 1972 to the effect that X ray film produced in the public sector project was of poor quality and that there was no check on the quality of film produced in the factory,

(b) if so, whether Government have obtained the opinion of non Governmental organisations using X ray film in question about its quality and

(c) the percentage of rejection that the manufacturing unit suffers per year?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD) (a) and (b) Yes, Sir

(c) At the stage of conversion, rejection due to manufacturing defects and sampling during 1970-71 was 48.26%. This has been progressively brought down and the current range is 10 to 20%. Certain improvements to the equipment and the process have been undertaken to better the performance. There is also a rejection of 10% due to edge trimmings which is not a manufacturing defect and which is also not avoidable.

SHRI N K SANGHI May I know whether the percentage of rejection last year was 40? Actually, in the medical world today, in fact, in this year's convention held in the month of January, a bitter complaint has been made against the quality of X-ray film manufactured in India and it has been said that the quality has considerably gone down? Am I to understand that the examination of the film in the factory is now leniently done with the result that the rejection is only 10 to 20 per cent, and more sub-standard quality of X-ray film is now sold in the market?

SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD We have seen the reports and also their comments, and after that, we have taken certain steps to

improve the quality in the Hindustan Photo Films

SHRI N K SANGHI May I know whether with a view to improving the quality of the X-ray films, Government are getting any technical know how or any expert committee from any foreign country who can look into the quality of the X-ray film produced in India or the factory will continue to function in the manner in which it is doing at present? They have not been able to fill up important posts in the factory. After Shri Hariharan, the Chief Production Manager's post has not been filled, and after Shri Ryan was shifted as managing director no new incumbent has been appointed. In view of this may I know what effective steps Government are going to take to see that the quality of the X ray film produced there is improved?

MR SPEAKER While asking questions, Members tend to make speeches also

SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD Regarding the management of the Hindustan Photo Films we have taken action. As regards the other suggestion we are in consultation with certain foreign firms, and after finalisation of those consultations, we shall take certain steps to improve the quality of the films.

MR SPEAKER The hon Member had asked another question also. After Mr Rajan, has any new incumbent been appointed?

SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD A new managing director has been appointed.

DR KAILAS In view of the overall shortage of the X ray films in Government and non Government hospitals, May I know whether Government are thinking of increasing the production of X ray films and, if at all they are thinking of doing so, may I know whether they have got figures in regard to the shortage per month or per year?

MR SPEAKER The main question is about the quality of the films. The hon Member cannot create a supplementary question out of the main question in this manner.

DR KAILAS Quality is interlinked with the shortage. If the production is 20 per cent less or the rejection is 40 per cent, to

that extent, we are not self-sufficient in X-ray films

MR SPEAKER I appreciate the hon Member's anxiety. But, unfortunately, the scope of the main question is very limited. If the hon Minister is in a position to answer it, I have no objection.

SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD Let me give the production figures for the last few months. The figures were as follows:

September, 1971	10,947
October, 1971	71,895
November, 1971	19,724
December, 1971	62,647
January, 1972	60,378
February, 1972	68,170

The figures would show that the production is going up.

SHRI M S SANJEEVI RAO May I know from the hon Minister the progress regarding the production of colour films in the Hindustan Photofilms?

MR SPEAKER I appreciate the hon Member's question, but the main question relates only to the quality of X-ray films.

Foreign Exchange for Import of Goods to
Increase Industrial Production

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*128 **SHRI RAJDEO SINGH**
SHRI M C DAGA

Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state

(a) whether attention of Government has been invited to the finding of the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) that nine to ten per cent increase in industrial production can be achieved in 1972, provided foreign exchange reserves are drawn upon to secure essential imports, and

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

**THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE
MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOP-**

MENT (SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD)
(a) Yes, Sir

(b) A Statement is placed on the Table of the House.

Statement

The NCAER study, while it has made some useful contribution, has not fully taken into consideration the diverse reasons affecting the growth rates of different industries of which shortage of imported raw materials is one. Government are endeavouring to maximise industrial production by taking various measures including the provisions of foreign exchange for essential imports. In this context, however, the need for increased self-reliance and for greater indigenous production of items hitherto imported has to be kept in mind. Consistent with the above objective, which liberalisation of import policy can be considered selectively in the interest of increased industrial and economic activity, Government do not favour a sharp decline in foreign exchange reserves following an indiscriminate liberalisation of imports that cannot be sustained over a period of time and cannot contribute to continuous and self-sustaining growth based on self-reliance.

SHRI RAJDEO SINGH From the statement I find

"The NCAER study, while it has made some useful contribution, has not fully taken into consideration the diverse reasons affecting the growth rates of different industries of which shortage of imported raw materials is one."

In this context may I know whether the Government will ask the NCAER again to go into the details and produce an exhaustive report?

SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD It has been done. It is a suggestion for action.

SHRI RAJDEO SINGH What are the bottlenecks in the way of increased production?

SHRI SIDDHESHWAR PRASAD As has been made clear in this House from time to time, one is shortage of raw materials, the other is inadequate technical knowhow; then