

(d) if so, the action taken by Government in the matter?

THE PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY, MINISTER OF ELECTRONICS AND MINISTER OF SPACE (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI): (a) Government is not aware of any such recession.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The prices of indigenous Electronic Calculators are higher than those of calculators of equivalent performance in the international market.

(d) The Government is carrying out a study on all aspects of the Calculator Industry.

Assistance for expansion of Power Plant of Durgapur Project, Ltd.

*580. SHRI KRISHNA CHANDRA HALDER: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the West Bengal Government sought Central assistance for expansion of Power Plant unit of Durgapur Projects Limited; and

(b) whether necessary assistance has been rendered to the concerned undertaking?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Financial provisions for power projects in States are included in the plans of the Power Sector in the overall State Plans. Central assistance is provided for the State Plan as a whole, and this has been done in the case of West Bengal also.

Taking over of multinational foreign companies

*584. SHRI P. R. SHENOY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering the taking over of some of the multinational foreign companies; and

(b) whether any of the multinational companies are engaged in subversive activities in the country?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI T. A. PAI): (a) Negotiations are in progress for the take over of certain companies engaged in the field of refining, distribution etc. of petroleum products.

(b) No such specific information is in the notice of the Government.

Consumption of Energy for Industrial Growth

*585. DR RANEN SEN:
SHRIMATI ROZA DESH-
PANDE:

Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) the total consumption position of energy for industrial growth in the years 1973-74, 1974-75 and upto December, 1975;

(b) the total expected consumption position of energy for the year 1976, in the industrial production; and

(c) whether Government have fixed quota for States to use energy in industries?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY (SHRI K. C. PANT): (a) and (b). The consumption of energy in industry during the years 1973-74 and 1974-75 was 37,827 million units and 38,107 million units respectively. The actual consumption of energy in industry upto December, 1975 has so far not been consolidated as the sales for different categories of consumers are generally compiled by the Boards together with

the revenues after the completion of the financial year. As this involves collection of data from all the States, there is time lag of about six months between the completion of a financial year and the availability of consolidated figures pertaining to it. However, on the basis of anticipated availability of energy and the demand of industrial users, it has been estimated that consumption of energy for industry would be around 48,000 million units during the financial year 1976-77.

(c) No, Sir.

However, the Central Government has circulated guidelines to the State Governments showing the inter-se priority for supply to various industries for implementation in the event of severe power shortage.

Cases under Untouchability Offences Act, 1955

2727. SHRI AMBESH. Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number and title of cases filed in the Court of Metropolitan Magistrate, Parliament Street, New Delhi under Untouchability Offences Act, 1955 during the last two years, and

(b) the number of cases out of them filed against the Government servants?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI F. H. MOHSIN): (a) and (b). The facts are being ascertained and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Intensified drive against Extremists in States

2728. SHRI MOHINDER SINGH GILL: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have launched an intensified drive against the extremists in various States; and

(b) if so, the number of persons apprehended in Punjab so far?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI F. H. MOHSIN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) 372 persons have been apprehended so far in this connection in Punjab.

Collaboration with European Countries in Development Projects of Third Countries

2729. SHRI NOORUL HUDA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Minister of State had undertaken a tour of several European countries recently;

(b) the purpose of such a tour;

(c) whether the Minister had discussed the question of Indian collaboration with European countries in the development projects of third countries; and

(d) the outcome of the discussions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI B. P. MAURYA): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. Shri A. P. Sharma led a delegation to European countries, the main objective of which was to establish contacts at the highest level in trade, industry and Government to protect the interests of coir exports from India as against competition from other natural and synthetic substitutes.

(c) and (d). Yes, Sir. These discussions were only of exploratory nature.