

Licensing policy announced by Government in February 1973, undertakings registered under section 26 of the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act, 1969 i.e.

(i) the undertakings which by themselves or together with their inter-connected undertakings have assets of not less than Rs. 20 crores, thereby attracting provisions of section 20(a); or

(ii) dominant undertakings which by themselves or with their inter-connected undertakings have assets of not less than Rs. 1 crore, thereby attracting the provisions of Section 20(b) of the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act, are considered as Large Industrial Houses.

These are not essentially the same as defined earlier by the Monopolies Inquiry Commission or the Industrial Licensing Policy Inquiry Committee. As the concept of Large Industrial Houses has thus undergone a fundamental change and the previous basis for classification has been discontinued, it is not possible to apply any common criteria and express an opinion on the increase or otherwise of the number of Large Houses in the industrial sector.

A list showing the names of Large Industrial Houses which have registered under the M.R.T.P. Act as on the 30th September, 1973, is laid on the table of the House. Place in Library. See No. LT-5898 173. It is not possible to classify the Houses by industrial sectors as each House comprises undertakings engaged in diverse activities.

(c) Does not arise.

Negotiations with I.C.I. regarding a Coal-Based Fertilizer Project

*329. SHRI JYOTIRMOY BOSU: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have recently started negotiations with the

Imperial Chemical Industries, U.K. for setting up a coal-based fertilizer project;

(b) whether Government have already contacted two members of the international Board of Directors of I.C.I. (U.K.) for the purpose;

(c) if so, a gist of the negotiations;

(d) whether it is the policy of Government to invite multinational firms for investment in India on a liberal scale; and

(e) if not, why these negotiations with the I.C.I. (U.K.)?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS (SHRI SHAHNAWAZ KHAN): (a), (d) and (e). Indian Explosives Limited have evinced interest in setting up a fertilizer plant in India at a suitable location based on either fuel oil or coal as feedstock. A firm proposal, when received from the company in this regard, would be examined *inter alia* with reference to the present policy of Government in regard to participation of foreign firms in the fertilizer field and on overall techno-economic considerations.

(b) and (c). In their meeting here in October, 1973, the senior functionaries of the ICI showed interest in a project of the type referred to, but there were no specific discussions on this subject; nor has any formal approach or commitment been made in this behalf.

Increase in prices of Gypsum Supplied by F.C.I.

*335. SHRI SATYENDRA NARAYAN SINHA: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND CHEMICALS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Fertilizer Corporation of India has recently increased the price of gypsum supplied to the farmers;