

(iii) The prices will not be revised frequently. Any change in price on account of the introduction of any new variety or increases in the price of any variety will also be publicised and no price increase will be effected without giving prior adequate notice to Government.

(iv) Price will be stamped on each ream of paper.

Shortage of Raw Materials in Small-Scale Industries in Kerala

*1398. SHRI M. K. KRISHNAN : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that the Kerala State's attempts to expand the small-scale sector of industry have met with various obstacles due to the non-availability of raw materials ; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to allot more raw materials like Steel, Iron, Aluminium and Zinc to Kerala ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY) : (a) and (b). There is at present an overall shortage of raw materials—both ferrous and non-ferrous—which acts as an obstacle to the development of Small Scale Industries in the country (including Kerala). The position, however, is being rectified through bulk imports and enhanced allocations. Bulk import of 58,670 tonnes of steel sheets and M. S. Plates has been arranged through HSL against a foreign exchange ceiling of Rs. 10 crores. Out of this, Kerala Government was given 1000 M. tonnes. Small Scale Units are also allowed import licenses for steel as actual users. Both as regards steel and non-ferrous metals, actual users have been allowed to import 50% more than what they did last year. Out of 2,000 M. Tonnes of stainless steel sheets imported by MMTC, the Kerala Government was given 64 M. tonnes for supply to utensils manufacturers. 1,200 tonnes of E.C. grade aluminium was given to Kerala Government in 1971-72

Pending Applications from Punjab for Licences

*1399. SHRI B. S. BHAURA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the number of applications for licences to establish industries in Punjab pending with Government and since how long ; and

(b) the reasons for the delay in their disposal ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY) : (a) Out of 93 applications received from 1.1.1968 to 30.6.1971 for the setting up of new industrial undertakings in the Punjab, 33 applications are still under consideration. Of these applications, 1 relates to 1968, 4 per aim to 1969, 15 to 1970 and 13 to 1971. No application received prior to 1.1.1968 is pending.

(b) Consideration of industrial licence applications necessitates fairly detailed examination of various aspects of the proposals. The disposal of a particular application is often delayed due to a number of reasons. Sometimes the applications do not provide complete information in the first instance and additional information is required. Occasionally policy decisions on the industries concerned are required. Government is, however, making all possible efforts to ensure expeditious disposal of the pending applications.

Construction of Afflux Bund on L ft Bank of Ganga as Part of Farakka Barrage

*1400. SHRI DINESH JOARDER : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the West Bengal Government had submitted to the Central Government a scheme for constructing an afflux bund on the left bank of the Ganga as part of Farakka Barrage with a view to check the erosion by floods in Malda District, West Bengal ; and

(b) if so, whether clearance had been given to this scheme ?

THE MINISTER OF IRRIGATION AND POWER (DR. K. L. RAO) : (a) and (b). A preliminary estimate of the scheme costing Rs. 1.65 crores for construction of an embankment on the left bank of the Ganga upstream of Farakka Barrage for protection

against floods, had been received in the Central Water and Power Commission in May, 1971, from the Chief Engineer, Government of West Bengal. After scrutiny, the Central Water and Power Commission have asked the Chief Engineer, West Bengal, to prepare a detailed scheme taking into account their comments and send the same after getting it approved by the North Bengal Flood Control Board. The detailed scheme is yet to be received from the Government of West Bengal.

Criteria for selection of Members for Railway Users' Consultative Committee at Zonal and Divisional Levels

*1401. SHRI VIKRAM CHAND MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) what are the criteria for the selection of Members for Zonal Railway Users Consultative Committees and Divisional Railway Users' Consultative Committee ;

(b) how many Members on these Committees have been continuing for more than two years ; and

(c) the reasons for permitting them to continue for more than two years ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI HANUMANTHAIYA) : (a) Nomination of Members on the Zonal/Divisional Railway Users' Consultative Committees is based on the principle of securing as wide a representation as is practicable of the various identifiable and important groups of rail users.

(b) 19 members on the existing Zonal Committees and 26 members on the Divisional Committees.

(c) The aptitude, zeal and interest with which Members engage themselves in public work are generally taken into consideration for continuance of their membership for another term.

Railway Line from Kathua to Jammu

*1402. SHRI INDER J. MALHOTRA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the further progress made in the construction of Railway line from Kathua to Jammu in Jammu and Kashmir State ; and

(b) the probable date by which the work shall be completed ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI HANUMANTHAIYA) : (a) An overall progress of 42.38% has been achieved on the construction of Kathua—Jammu rail line upto the end of June, 1971.

(b) December, 1972.

Providing of Expert Services and Undertaking Development Programmes of Railways in Foreign Countries

*1403. SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the names of foreign countries with broad terms and conditions where the Ministry is providing Expert services and has taken up development programmes of Railways in those countries ; and

(b) to what extent these terms and conditions are benefiting Government and the profit earned thereby ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI HANUMANTHAIYA) : (a) Expert Services have been provided under Bilateral Agreements and Aid Plans to Ghana, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Nigeria, Philippines, South Korea, Syria, Thailand and Zambia, but no development project of railways has so far been taken up in any country.

(b) The terms and conditions for expert services are not profit oriented.

Representation by Punjab to increase capacity of Thermal Plant at Bhatinda

*1404. SHRI PRABODH CHANDRA : Will the Minister of IRRIGATION AND POWER be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Punjab Government have made any representation for the increase in the capacity of the Thermal Plant at Bhatinda, and if so, the decision of Government ; and