

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) So far as Inland Letter Cards and Embossed Letters are concerned occasional printing errors such as skipping of the colour, creasing double impression, etc. in embossed envelopes and inland letter cards, pass through in spite of careful scrutiny at all levels.

The stamp on the 'Homage to Martyrs' was printed in multi-colour and the saffron strip of the National Flag had a slight reddish tinge. This stamp had to be brought out in a hurry and the slight variation in the colour could not be detected.

So far as the spokes on the Dharma Chakra there has been only a report about the correct number of spokes not being shown on the first day covers issued in connection with the bi-centenary of President's Body Guard as well as on the souvenir folders brought out some time in 1970. In view of the small size of the Chakra the discrepancy in the number of spokes escaped notice.

(c) Strict instructions have been issued for careful scrutiny of colour, design, etc. of stamps, inland letter cards, etc. so as to avoid such errors in future.

Demand for more newsprint from All India Small and Medium Newspapers Federation

*546. SHRI P. A. SAMINATHAN: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether small newspapers have demanded more newsprint;

(b) if so, whether the All-India Small and Medium Newspapers Federation has demanded further cut to large newspapers and supply enough newsprint to small and medium newspapers; and

(c) if so, the reaction of Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI I. K. GUJRAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. It is not, however, possible to do so in view of the Supreme Court Judgment in the Newsprint case. It became necessary to impose a uniform cut of 30 per cent in the entitlement of newsprint of newspapers for 1973-74 owing to serious short-fall in availability. Small and Medium newspapers with a performance equivalent to a circulation up to 15,000 copies and a page-level of 8 are, on application, exempted from the operation of the cut.

Modernisation of Edward Mills, Beawar (Rajasthan)

*553. SHRI Y. ESWARA REDDY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Edward Mills, Beawar (Rajasthan), taken over by National Textile Corporation in 1972, has started functioning;

(b) if so, the amount spent so far for modernising the machinery;

(c) by what time modernisation will be completed; and

(d) whether any steps are being taken to make available enough working capital to see that it runs properly?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) An amount of Rs. 34.41 lakhs has been sanctioned for modernisation of the mill; out of the above, the share of the National Textile Corporation amounts to Rs. 17.55 lakhs and the share of the State Government to Rs. 16.86 lakhs. The mill has submitted a proposal for revising the sanctioned modernisation programme, which is being examined by the National Textile Corporation. Meanwhile, a sum of Rs. 2 lakhs has been advanced to the mill by the State Government for meeting immediate needs.

(c) It is estimated that the modernisation programme will be implemented within 18 to 24 months of placing orders for machinery.

(d) A sum of Rs. 7.90 lakhs has been advanced to the mill by the N.T.C. as margin money on account of working capital requirements.

Encroachments on P & T land in Bihar Circle

*554. SHRI K. M. MADHUKAR : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the names of places in Bihar Circle and Patna Telephone District where encroachment on Posts and Telegraphs Departmental lands have taken place by unauthorised persons :

(b) the area of land under encroachment by such unauthorised persons ;

(c) whether an M.L.A. and former Minister of Bihar is occupying P & T land at Kidwaiपुरी, Patna despite assurance by the former Minister of Communications to get the land vacated from him ; and

(d) whether any action has been taken by Government to get the unauthorised occupants evicted and if so, the facts thereof and if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI RAJ BAHADUR) : (a) (i) Bihar Circle : The names of places where encroachment of land has taken place are :—Jamshedpur, Nawada, Kadirganj, Warsaliganj, Bettiah, Lealiganj, Supaul, Kanauli Bazar, Chakulia, Dholi, Darbhanga and Madhubani.

(ii) Patna Telephone District : Kidwaiपुरी, Patna.

(b) (i) Bihar Circle : 0.90 acres approx.

(ii) Patna Telephone District : 15960 (.36 acres) sq. ft. approximately.

(c) Yes Sir.

(d) Case has been initiated to get all the unauthorised occupants evicted under the Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants Act, 1971.

Issue of Licences for setting up Oxygen Plant

*555. SHRI K. P. UNNIKRISHNAN : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that many of the licences issued for starting oxygen plants in the country during the last three years could not be utilised due to the non-availability of indigenous machinery and difficulty in getting it imported ; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to allow them to import necessary machinery to start these plants ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM) : (a) and (b) Owing to a difficult foreign exchange position, Government have allowed only limited imports of plants and machinery for urgent requirements. Oxygen plants are now being manufactured in the country. As such it is considered that additional requirements of oxygen should be met from indigenous plants as a rule and imports allowed only in special circumstances.

परमाणु शक्ति का उत्पादन

*556. श्री अटल बिहारी वाजपेयी : क्या परमाणु उर्जा मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) देश में परमाणु शक्ति के उत्पादन के सम्बन्ध में क्या आरम्भिक लक्ष्य तथा कार्यक्रम निर्धारित किया गया था ;

(ख) अब तक इस सम्बन्ध में क्या प्रगति हुई है उससे क्या परिणाम उपलब्ध हुए हैं ; और