

Shri Bishwanath Roy: May I know the time by which the plants which are going to be set up will start production?

The Minister of Industrial Development and Company Affairs (Shri F.A. Ahmed): So far as the expansion of the NEPA mills is concerned action has already been taken and we hope that newsprint out of expansions unit will be manufactured by 1969.

granted provisional registration for manufacture of various types of Surgical Instruments. An application from another unit for registration with Directorate General of Technical Development is under examination. It is expected that major portion of the requirements of surgical instruments would be manufactured in the country in about five years period. Some imports may, however, continue particularly of highly specialised and sophisticated types for which there may not be large demand in numbers to undertake the economic manufacture thereof.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Surgical Instruments

*1296. **Shri Onkar Singh:**
Shri Onkar Lal Berwa:

Will the Minister of Industrial Development and Company Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) the amount spent for the import of surgical instruments in terms of foreign exchange; and

(b) the steps taken for attaining self-sufficiency in surgical instruments?

The Minister of Industrial Development and Company Affairs (Shri F. A. Ahmed): (a) The value of imports of certain surgical instruments for the past three years is given in the table below:—

1964-65	Rs. 61.79 lakhs
1965-66	Rs. 79.74 lakhs
1966-67 (upto Feb. 67)	Rs. 54.11 lakhs

(b) A Surgical Instruments Plant has been set up at Madras in the Public Sector with Russian assistance. The project was commissioned to operate from 1st September, 1965. This factory has a licensed capacity of 2.5 million pieces of about 25 types of surgical instrument of broad categories. There are some units in the Small Scale Sector producing a variety of surgical instruments. Two units in the private sector have been

Import of Heavy Soda Ash by S.T.C.

*1297. **Shri Onkar Lal Berwa:**
Shri Onkar Singh:

Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the State Trading Corporation is contemplating to import 10,000 tonnes of heavy soda ash at a time when indigenous material is available in plenty; and

(b) if so, why this is being done despite tight foreign exchange position?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Dinesh Singh): (a) and (b). STC has made arrangements for the imports of 6000 tons only. No further imports are proposed at present. Even though indigenous production is satisfactory, some marginal imports to serve as buffer stock have been considered necessary.

Expansion of Railway Yards on S.E. Railway

*1298. **Shri Chintamani Panigrahi:**
Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to expand the Cuttack and other Railway yards on the South-Eastern Railway to enable them to handle the off-take of the Paradeep Cargo;

- (b) if so, the details thereof; and
(c) the estimated amount of expenditure for the expansion programme?

The Minister of Railways (Shri C. M. Poonacha): (a) There is no such proposal at present.

- (b) and (c). Do not arise.

Trade Agreements against Rupee Clearance Accounts

*1300. Shri N. K. P. Salve: Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) whether there are any safeguards in the trade agreements between India and other countries for export/import of goods against Rupee clearance accounts to ensure that the goods purchased from India are not diverted by the purchasing countries in the very same form to international market and sold at a discount to the detriment of Indian exports of such goods into the international market; and

(b) whether it is a fact that 10,000 tonnes of ferro-manganese purchased from the Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation of India Ltd. by East Germany, with whom India has trade agreement of export/import against Rupee clearance accounts, has been sold to an American firm at a discount?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Dinesh Singh): (a) Yes, Sir. According to the agreements goods sold are meant for consumption in the buying country only.

(b) Government has no such information.

Small-scale Industries in Backward Areas

*1301 Shri K. Barua: Will the Minister of Industrial Development and Company Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have approved the recommendations of the

Small Scale Industries Board regarding the need for special concessions and incentives to the backward areas for developing small-scale industries;

(b) if so, the steps being taken to implement the recommendations; and

(c) whether State participation in equity capital of small-scale units is being contemplated?

The Minister of Industrial Development and Company Affairs (Shri F. A. Ahmed): (a) and (b). At the 24th meeting of the Small Scale Industries Board held at Bangalore in July, 1966, a point was made that special concessions/incentives might be given to small scale units established in backward areas. The question of giving concessions/incentives in backward areas has been under the consideration of the Government for sometime past. It was felt by Government the recommendations made by the Committee on Dispersal of Industries as reviewed and adopted by the IV Plan Working Group on Small Scale Industries and the Committee on incentives for Rural Industrialisation might be considered for adoption. The report of the later Committee has been submitted to the Planning Commission and is now under their consideration. Details of the concessions/incentives to industrial units in the backward areas will be worked out after the recommendations of the Incentives Committee are approved by the Planning Commission.

(c) Yes, Sir. A scheme for State participation in equity capital of small scale industries was discussed at the first meeting of the Official Level Committee of the Small Scale Industries Board, in February, 1967. The scheme was broadly approved by the Committee. It was, further, recommended that the details of the scheme might be finalised in consultation with the Planning Commission, Ministry of Finance and other concerned Ministries/Departments. This is now being done.