

Depression in Coal Industry

*1393, Shri S. S. Kathari:
 Shri E. N. Seshadri:
 Shri Brij Raj Singh:
 Shri K. K. Nayar:
 Shri Bharat Singh Chauhan:
 Shri S. K. Taguriah:

Will the Minister of Steel, Mines and Metals be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a depression in the coal industry;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to remedy the situation?

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Steel, Mines and Metals (Shri P. C. Sethi): (a) No, Sir.

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

Indo-UAR Trade

*1394, Shri D. N. Patodia:
 Shri A. Sreedharan:
 Shri K. Lakkappa:
 Shri Mangalathumadom:
 Shri R. Barua:
 Shri Yashpal Singh:
 Shri K. P. Singh Deo:
 Shri Kameshwar Singh:
 Shri Shankre:
 Shri N. K. Somani:
 Shri Virendrakumar Shah:
 Shri P. C. Adlehan:
 Shri Manibhai J. Patel:
 Shri Sradhakar Supakar:
 Shri D. N. Deb:
 Shri Prakash Vir Shastri:
 Shri Y. S. Kuswah:
 Shri Raghavir Singh Shastri:
 Shri Hukam Chand Kachwal:
 Shri Ram Avtar Sharma:
 Shri Atam Das:
 Shri Shiy Kumar Shastri:
 Dr. Surya Prakash Furi:

Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state:

(a) Government's assessment of the impact of the Israel-UAR War on the Indo-UAR trade and also on the

Indian trade with other Arab countries; and

(b) the measures planned to improve trade relations with those countries?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Dinesh Singh): (a) There is a considerable unsatisfied demand in the United Arab Republic and some other Arab countries for the type of goods which Indian producers and suppliers are in a position to meet. The exports to these countries are likely to increase in the coming months.

(b) Our Missions are in touch with the local situation and have been reporting on requirements which can be met by Indian suppliers. The Federation of Indian Export Organisations is sponsoring the visit of three Trade Teams. One of these Teams leaves for Cairo to-night. The other two Teams will be leaving for other markets during the course of the next week. Facilities are being provided for individual businessmen wishing to visit these markets. The State Trading Corporation is also taking active steps to promote sales to these markets.

Manufacture of Domestic Gas Cylinders

*1395, Shri Nitiraj Singh Chandhary:
 Shri G. S. Mishra:

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

(a) the number of units fabricating domestic gas cylinders during the last three years;

(b) whether they are not able to utilise their full capacity either due to dearth of raw material or some other reasons and yet a new licence has been given to M/s. Aikhya Metals, Hyderabad, a Birla concern; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

The Minister of Industrial Development and Company Affairs (Shri F. A. Ahmed): (a) Two.

(b) Although there had been some shortage in the availability of indigenous steel and delayed deliveries thereof, over sixty per cent of the capacity for manufacture of Liquefied Petroleum Gas Cylinders was being utilised during the last two years.

No industrial licence is required to be obtained by entrepreneurs for the manufacture of gas cylinders, as this item is not included in the First Schedule to the Industries (Development & Regulation) Act, 1951 and does not therefore attract its provisions.

M/s. Hyderabad Allwyn Metal Works Ltd, Hyderabad, (a company belonging to the Birla Group) had informed the Government that they would be diversifying their existing lines of manufacture of furniture, refrigerators, bus-bodies, etc for the manufacture of a new article, viz. Liquefied Petroleum Gas Cylinders, in terms of the Ministry of Industry Press Note dated 27-10-1966, allowing industrial undertakings to diversify production by the manufacture of new article without any specific licence within the stipulations made in it. This information was noted. No specific approval of the Government to M/s. Hyderabad Allwyn Metal Works Ltd, taking up manufacture of domestic gas cylinders in the manner proposed by the company was called for.

(c) Does not arise.

Price of Commercial Vehicles

*1366. Shri Sidheshwar Prasad: Will the Minister of Industrial Development and Company Affairs be pleased to refer to the reply given to Starred Question No. 705 on the 23rd June, 1967 and state:

(a) the price of the commercial vehicles before the lifting of price

control and what are the prices now; and

(b) whether the lifting of price control has had any effect on the prices of other vehicles?

The Minister of Industrial Development and Company Affairs (Shri F. A. Ahmed): (a) A statement is laid on the Table of the House [Placed in Library. See No LT-1183/67].

(b) No, Sir.

Heavy Engineering Corporation, Ranchi

*1367. Shri K. Ramani:
Shri Umamath;
Shri Jyotirmoy Basu;
Shri E. K. Nayanar;
Shri K. Anirudhan;
Shri K. M. Abraham:

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

(a) whether the decision to diversify the production of items by Heavy Engineering Corporation was taken during 1965;

(b) if so, whether the decision has been implemented in full,

(c) whether the production targets have been fulfilled after diversification; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

The Minister of Industrial Development and Company Affairs (Shri F. A. Ahmed): (a) and (b) In order to take care of possible idle capacity due to insufficient orders for Steel Plant equipment, the Company has under constant review the question of diversification since 1965. Most of the schemes are still under examination.

(c) and (d). Do not arise

"Licensed Measurers" at Calcutta Port

*1368. Shri Indrajit Gupta: Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to state,

(a) whether he is aware of the