

Incentives for exports are also provided with a view to step up production. A system of special reporting with a view to locate and solve problems of industry has recently been introduced. The Finance Minister in course of his speech in the Lok Sabha on 24th of July has announced several measures—fiscal and others—intended to stimulate industrial production.

(d) The draft outline of the Fourth Five Year Plan envisages a compounded rate of growth of about 12 per cent annually. The actual increase in production in 1966-67 was of the order of 2.7 per cent. It is likely that the increase in 1967-68 will also be significantly lower than the target originally envisaged for the Fourth Plan.

#### Train Conductors

\*1457. **Shri M. L. Sondhi:** Will the Minister of Railways be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Train Conductors are instructed to look after the comforts of the upper class passengers only;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to make similar arrangement for looking after the comforts of the lower class passengers also; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

**The Minister of Railways (Shri C. M. Poonacha):** (a) No, Sir.

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

#### Automobile Industry

\*1458. **Shri Yogendra Sharma:** Will the Minister of Industrial Development and Company Affairs be pleased to state:

(a) whether the automobile industry is facing a crisis due to the fall in the demand for trucks and commercial vehicles; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to help the industry to face the crisis?

**The Minister of Industrial Development and Company Affairs (Shri F. A. Ahmed):** (a) Government are aware that due to fall in demand for commercial vehicles, some of the manufacturers have curtailed production in recent months and laid off some labour.

(b) The restrictions imposed by the Reserve Bank in April last on the Scheduled Banks in advancing loans to hire purchase companies financing the purchase of commercial vehicles have recently been withdrawn.

Following the withdrawal of these restrictions, it is hoped that commercial banks will make credit available in a greater measure to finance sales on hire purchase terms thus assisting in improving the demand and sales position of commercial vehicles.

#### Small Scale Industries

\*1459. **Shri G. S. Mishra:**  
**Shri Nitiraj Singh**  
**Chaudhary:**

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

(a) whether the freezing of Reserve Bank loan to traders has proved detrimental to the progress of Small-Scale Industries in the country; and

(b) the nature of the steps Government have taken to keep running the business of the small scale units in the event of recessionary trend in the market?

**The Minister of Industrial Development and Company Affairs (Shri F. A. Ahmed):** (a) No, Sir.

(b) In order to encourage banks to increase their advances to small scale industries Government has been guaranteeing such loans under the Credit Guarantee Scheme. Various other steps like price preference for the products of the small scale industries in Government store purchases

programme, reservation of items for manufacture in the small scale sector only, export incentives, have been taken. The small scale units are also being advised to diversify their production for manufacturing goods having ready market.

### Bharathi Mills, Pondicherry

\*1461. Shri Umanath:

Shri C. K. Chakrapani:

Shri E. K. Nayanar:

Shri K. Ramani:

Shri Vishwanatha Menon:

Shri B. K. Modak:

Will the Minister of Commerce be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 4263 on the 30th June, 1967 and state:

### व्यापार बोर्ड

- \*1460. श्री रघुबीर सिंह शास्त्री :  
 श्री यशवन्त सिंह कुशवाह :  
 श्री प्रकाशवीर शास्त्री :  
 डा० सूर्य प्रकाश पुरी :  
 श्री ध्यात्म दास :  
 श्री रामावतार शर्मा :  
 श्री शिवकुमार शास्त्री :  
 श्री रामगोपाल शालबाले :  
 श्री तुकम चन्द कछवाय :

क्या वाणिज्य मन्त्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) व्यापार बोर्ड ने अपने कार्यकाल में विभिन्न वस्तुओं के लिये निर्यात लाइसेंस देने के प्रयोजनार्थ सरकार को कितनी व्यक्तियों के नामों की तथा किन्-किन् वस्तुओं के लिए सिफारिश की थी; और

(ख) कितने व्यक्तियों को उसकी सिफारिश पर सरकार ने लाइसेंस दिये ?

वाणिज्य मंत्री (श्री विनेश सिंह) :

(क) किन्ही व्यक्तियों को निर्यात लाइसेंस देने की सिफारिश करना व्यापार बोर्ड का कार्य नहीं है। हमें पता नहीं है कि व्यापार बोर्ड ने किसी व्यक्ति को कोई निर्यात लाइसेंस देने की सिफारिश की थी।

(ख) प्रश्न नहीं उठता।

(a) whether Government are aware of the assurance given to the House by Shri Manubhai Shah, the then Minister of Commerce, in reply to Starred Question No. 543 on the 19th August, 1966, that all workers as on rolls prior to the closure of Bharathi Mills Ltd., Pondicherry, will be taken back for work.

(b) whether it is a fact that in violation of this assurance about 500 workers and clerical staff have been retrenched;

(c) if so, the reasons for the large-scale retrenchment; and

(d) the measures proposed by Government to restore *status quo*, in keeping with the solemn assurance?

The Minister of Commerce (Shri Dinesh Singh): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d). Sri Bharathi Mills Ltd., Pondicherry, is a composite textile mill. Its installed capacity, when it closed down in December, 1965 was 25,000 spindles and 386 looms and it employed about 900 permanent workers, 300 pool workers, who were still to be made permanent, and about 400 temporary workers who were given employment according to the changes from time to time. An Investigation Committee was appointed under Section 15 of the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951, to look into the affairs of the mill and recommended *inter alia* the appointment of an Authorised Controller and restarting of the mill with only 16,280 spindles and 144 looms, which would provide employment roughly to about 800 workers only.