

of primary steel—semis, billets, and pig iron—to developing countries even at the cost of internal demands;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the names of countries from which pressing demands for these items have been received?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL & HEAVY ENGINEERING (SHRI K. C. PANT) : (a) and (b). Government's policy is to regulate the exports of pig iron, semi finished steel or finished steel so as to strike a rational balance between the domestic demand, the earnings of foreign exchange through exports, and the maintenance of cordial economic relations particularly with neighbouring friendly developing countries.

(c) The largest demand at present for Indian pig iron and ingots is from Japan. There are demands for billets from several countries including Nepal, Ceylon, Thailand, Mauritius and Iran.

ASHRAM SCHOOLS IN STATES

*1587. SHRI BENI SHANKER SHARMA : Will the Minister of LAW AND SOCIAL WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the cost of construction of Ashram Schools, run by certain States under Centrally aided programmes, is very high as compared to other traditional schools and as a result of this many of the States are unable to have more schools of this type;

(b) if so, the reasons thereof; and

(c) the details of these schools in different States?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE (DR. (SHRIMATI) PHULRENU GUHA) : (a) and (b). The Ashram type of schools specially set up for the Scheduled Tribe children are residential schools with vocational bias. The inmates are provided free board

and lodging, education and medical facilities. Therefore, the cost of establishment and running of Ashram schools is more than that of other ordinary schools. Ashram schools are set up under the State sector programme by the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations depending upon the availability of funds.

(c) The information has been called from the State Governments/Union Territory Administrations and will be laid on the Table of the House as soon as it is received.

IMPROVEMENT IN SETTING UP NEW INDUSTRIAL CONCERNS

*1588. SHRI S. R. DAMANI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, INTERNAL TRADE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether there has been any visible improvement in the coming up of new industrial concerns since the announcement of the new policy; and

(b) if so, in what industries this is noticed and how many parties have approached Government for issuing licences and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, INTERNAL TRADE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI F. A. AHMED) : (a) and (b). The new Licensing Policy was announced only on 18-2-1970. It is too early to make an assessment of the impact of the new policy on the establishment of new industrial concerns. However, during the last two months after the announcement of the new Licensing Policy (*viz.* March & April 1970), 123 applications were received for setting up of New Industrial Undertakings. These applications were for industries such as Automobile Tyres & Tubes, Paper, and Pulp, Sugar, Tractors and Agricultural Equipments, Marine Diesel Engines, Ammonium Sulphate, Caustic Soda, Vanaspati etc. During the corresponding period in 1969, the number of such applications was 98.