

The lists of shareholders of the three public limited companies in question are reported to be very long and are not readily available. However, the percentage of shares held by foreign collaborators in the three Indian companies is indicated below :—

Name of the Company	Percentage of total shares held by foreign company (collaborators)
1. Grant Advertising India Ltd.	40
2. Hindustan Thompson Associates Ltd.	40
3. Clarion McCann Advertising Services Ltd.	49

(b) The Ministry of Information and Broadcasting is seized of the problem. The Rajya Sabha resolution of 13th March, 1970 which, *inter-alia*, provides that the services of such advertising agencies should be utilised as are wholly Indian owned and Indian controlled, has been brought to the notice of all the Ministries, Government Undertakings, etc. by the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. The extent of foreign controlling interest in the three companies under reference is known to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

Observations by Maharashtra Irrigation Minister *Re. Issue of Licences*

*1734. SHRI VIRENDRAKUMAR SHAH : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, INTERNAL TRADE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a report in the *Financial Express* dated the 23rd April, 1970, under the caption "State Plans to Tack'e Diesel Oil Engine Glut" ;

(b) whether he has noted the observations made by the Minister of Irrigation of the Government of Maharashtra on the floor of the State Assembly to the effect that the Union Government give Licences to certain States to import machinery but insists on certain other States to use indigenous machinery ;

(c) whether the above observations are correct and, if so, the grounds for such discrimination ; and

(d) if the said observations are not correct, the steps taken by him to clarify the matter to the Government of Maharashtra to remove any wrong impression created in the minds of the members of the State Assembly and the general public ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, INTERNAL TRADE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI F. A. AHMED) : (a) and (b). Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) There is no discrimination regarding allotment of imported equipment to particular States and forcing other States to go in for indigenous machinery. Wherever indigenous capacity has been developed imports are not normally permitted. However, import licences have been allowed in certain exceptional cases where because of the long period of delivery of indigenous equipment or other such exceptional features and the essential nature of the project, import was considered to be necessary.

Introduction of Automation on Railways

*1735. SHRI YASHPAL SINGH : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are proposing to introduce large scale automation on the Railways ; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NANDA) : (a) and (b). No, Sir. So far as the term 'automation' refers to computers, Indian Railways have computerised some items of work on a selective basis. If by the term 'automation' other items of mechanisation are referred to such as mechanised maintenance of track, centralised traffic control, route relay interlocking, etc., Indian Railways go in for these improvements in order to step up efficiency of Railway service, increase safety of travel where frequency of services, as in suburban areas, is getting beyond the capacity of effective and quick manual control of signals, points etc.