

needs the production of steam locomotives in Chittaranjan Locomotive Works is gradually being tapered off, correspondingly increasing the production of electric and diesel shunting locomotives. According to the present plan, production of steam locomotives will be completely stopped at the Chittaranjan Locomotive Works by the end of 1971 and thereafter only electric and diesel locomotives will be manufactured there.

Guidelines for Licensing of Raw Material Imports

*43. SHRI G. VENKATASWAMY : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNAL TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have formulated any informal guidelines to be followed by the Directorate General, Technical Development for the licensing of raw material imports during 1970; and

(b) if so, the broad outlines thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNAL TRADE (SHRI DINESH SINGH) : (a) and (b). In terms of the import policy for 1970-71, priority industries are to be granted licences for imported raw materials and components, etc., on the basis of their consumption of such raw material and components during the past period. Non-priority industries are granted import licences for six monthly periods based on their entitlements with reference to a base period.

2. Raw material allocations for certain machine-building industries are, however, based on orders in hand, even though such allocations may be in excess of past consumption. Following from this, and in order to stimulate production in priority industries in respect of which there is rapidly-increasing demand, sponsoring authorities are permitted to recommend allocation of imported raw materials and components in excess of past consumption, in order to make fuller use of existing capacity.

3. Sponsoring authorities have been instructed that in making the determination

regarding allotment of raw materials, they would take into consideration criteria such as existing stocks, licensed capacity and other relevant factors.

Commission to enquire into Charges against Birla Concerns

*44. SHRI PREM CHAND VERMA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNAL TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) the present stage of enquiry against the Birla concerns;

(b) the number of firms against which enquiries were to be held, the number of persons in respect of which enquiries have been finalised and how many are still under examination;

(c) the action taken against the firms against which allegations have been proved and what are the names of such firms;

(d) the names of the Directors, Managers and officers of the Birla firms against whom Government have instituted action and the details of such cases; and

(e) the date by which the Inquiry Commission is expected to complete the enquiry against the Birla firms and whether Government will lay the report of the Inquiry Commission on the Table of the House ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNAL TRADE (SHRI DINESH SINGH) : (a) to (e). The Commission of Inquiry appointed by the Government to enquire into instances of irregularities, lapses or improprieties referred to in the Report of the Industrial Licensing Policy Inquiry Committee which have allegedly taken place to the advantage of the Large Industrial Houses and also into certain specific allegations against the Birla Group of concerns has only recently started its work. The terms of reference of the Commission which are quite comprehensive have already been laid on the Table of the House. Since the Commission started its work only recently, no progress