

(c) and (d). Industrial Development Corporation, Orissa had tendered for the purchase of molten blast furnace slag from Rourkela Steel Plant but they subsequently withdraw their offer.

**Dharna before the Prime Minister's House by Unions affiliated to All India Railwaymen's Federation**

\*738. SHRI S. M. BANERJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Unions affiliated to the All India Railwaymen's Federation staged a dharna before the Prime Minister's House in November, 1970;

(b) if so, what are their demands; and

(c) whether Government are considering their demands?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NANDA): (a) and (b). A section of the Railway employees, under the auspices of the All India Railwaymen's Federation staged a squatting demonstration outside the residence of the Prime Minister at New Delhi in November 1970 to protest against the inadequacy of interim relief granted to the Central Government employees including Railway employees.

(c) The rates of interim relief granted are based on the recommendations of the Third Pay Commission, who had carefully examined the question. Government have already considered all factors while accepting the commission's recommendations

**Liberalisation of Licensing Policy**

\*739. SHRI N. K. SOMANI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNAL TRADE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to liberalise the licences over and above the targets and capacity of the non-core industries in the country; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken to make the raw material available to such industries?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNAL TRADE (SHRI DINESH SINGH): (a) and (b). As part of the changes in licensing policy, Government have announced that in the middle sector involving investments ranging from Rs. 1 crore to Rs. 5 crores, licence applications of parties other than undertakings belonging to the Larger Industrial Houses shall be given special consideration and shall be issued liberally, except where foreign exchange implications necessitate careful scrutiny. Government has also dispensed with the 'banned list' as an experimental measure. In view of the fact over a wide area of industrial activity, accurate demand estimates cannot be made, Government do not propose to go by strict capacity considerations in considering applications for industrial licences. The raw material allocation to new units licensed will be made, as and when they apply in the normal course, in terms of the import policy prevailing, subject to the facilities or constraints laid down for such units under the import licensing procedures.

**Shortage of Paper**

\*740. SHRI KANWAR LAL GUPTA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNAL TRADE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is an acute shortage of paper, particularly, white printing paper;

(b) whether the nomenclature of the white printing paper has been changed to get more price;

(c) how much paper has been exported in the last two years; and

(d) to what extent the manufacturers have fulfilled the commitments made by them before the former Minister of Industrial Development?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNAL TRADE (SHRI M. R. KRISHNA): (a) A shortage does exist in the supply of white printing paper.