

(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.

(b) The Adhoc Committee on paper industry have received reports regarding the higher prices being charged for varieties of paper under different nomenclature and these reports are being looked into by the Adhoc Committee.

(c) During 1968-69 and 1969-70 export of all varieties of paper including paper board was Rs. 5.14 crores and Rs. 4.88 crores respectively.

(d) As directed by the Adhoc Committee, the Paper Industry fulfilled its commitment in respect of additional supply of 15,000 tonnes of white printing paper during May to July 1970.

Lock out in HMT Factory at Bangalore and other Places

*741. SHRI SHASHI BHUSHAN : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNAL TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Hindustan Machines Tools Ltd., has since lifted the lock out from its factory in Bangalore and other places which was imposed following the strike by the employees ;

(b) whether the employees have refused to resume their duties unless their grievances are redressed and agreement is reached between them and the management ; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto and the specific measures adopted to resolve the differences between the workers and the management ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNAL TRADE (SHRI M. R. KRISHNA) : (a) to (c). A statement is laid on the Table of the House. [*Placed in Library.* See No. LT-4574/70].

Revision of Ceiling on Investment in Small Industries

*742. SHRI MEETHA LAL MEENA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNAL TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are considering

revision of the present ceiling on investment in small industries ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) the extent to which such a revision is likely to help the small industries in the country ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNAL TRADE (SHRI M. R. KRISHNA) : (a) No, Sir.

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

Restrictions on Industrial Licensing

*743. SHRI S. N. MISRA : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNAL TRADE be pleased to state :

(a) the items on which licence is required in spite of the limit of rupees one crore ; and

(b) the reasons why restrictions and limitations of licensing have been kept in respect of these items ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND INTERNAL TRADE (SHRI DINESH SINGH) : (a) and (b). The exemption limit of Rs. 1 crore would not be applicable in respect of three categories of industries and in others in respect of such of those industrial units which would require more than 10% of the fixed assets in land, buildings and machinery or Rs. 10 lakhs (whichever is less) by way of imported capital equipment or 3% of the value of production or Rs. 3 lakhs (whichever is less) of imported raw materials or would require imported components for more than 3 years. The industrial units belonging to or controlled by Larger Industrial Houses, foreign concerns and dominant undertakings would also not be eligible for exemption. The three categories of industries mentioned above are :—

(i) Six industries, namely, coal, textiles, vanaspati, matches, leather and roller flour milling, which would require a licence irrespective of the level of investment involved. This provision has been made in order to ensure