

तो क्या उन्होंने कोई कारखाना लगाया है कि नहीं ?

SHRI GHANSHYAM OZA : It is too early to say. Still licences are yet to be issued and subsequent to that they would go into commission.

SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURY : I would like to know from the hon. Minister how many applications were submitted to the hon. Minister out of which, during the period from 1-1-1970 to 30-6-1971, 19 letters of intent were issued

SHRI GHANSHYAM OZA : If he wants the figures, I will give them yearwise. In 1970, nine applications were received. In 1971, 10 applications. As for the licences issued, for Punjab, in 1971, for new undertakings, one. Total—11 and 10.

SHRI B. K. DASCHOWDHURY : So, 19 applications were received and 19 letters of intent were issued !

Production in Tannery and Footwear Corporation of India Ltd., Kanpur

*1535. **SHRI S. M BANERJEE :** Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the further steps taken to improve production in Tannery and Footwear Corporation of India Ltd., Kanpur ;

(b) whether any investigation has been made to assess the causes of losses ; and

(c) what changes are likely to be brought in the method of production ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI GHANSHYAM OZA) : (a) to (c). A study has revealed that the Tannery and Footwear Corporation of India Ltd., Kanpur, has been generally incurring losses due to under utilisation of its installed capacity. Steps are, therefore, being taken to step up production by modernising plant and machinery and by manufacturing saleable products. Some of the other significant steps taken to improve the working of the Corporation are detailed in the attached statement.

Statement

1. Sales Organisation is being strengthened to effectively market the products of the Organisation.
2. Quality control has been introduced to eliminate rejections and losses arising therefrom. In fact, the standard of quality has already gone up considerably.
3. Better methods of production, planning and control have been evolved to eliminate wastage of materials.
4. A new system of raw hide purchase has been introduced which links payment with the yield and quality of the product purchased, thus eliminating the chance of excess payment on account of wrong estimation which frequently takes place when hide are purchased in the raw condition. In the case of other materials also, economy in purchases has been brought about by making purchases from the manufacturers themselves or from accredited agents and by reducing dependence on the local Traders/Retailors.
5. Productivity has already improved as a result of various steps taken in the recent months. Further efforts to raise productivity continue. Bulk orders have been negotiated with Government departments which will ensure maintenance of production at a reasonable rate.
6. Arrangements are being made for modernisation of the plant and equipment which will improve the profitability of the plant.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : At present the Managing Director of this particular public undertaking is a very efficient IAS officer, but he is not a technocrat. Because it is essentially a leather factory, one who knows something about leather should be at the head of this factory. Are the Government going to change the present Managing Director and replace him by a technocrat as in other public undertakings ?

SHRI GHANSHYAM OZA : The hon. Member very well knows that recently at his own request we have sent a senior officer to go into the affairs of this Corporation. We are examining the recommendations made by him.

SHRI S. M. BANERJEE : Since the policy pursued by the Government now is to have workers' representatives in the Board of Management, and this being a public undertaking I would like to know whether they have considered the feasibility of having workers' representative on the Board, and if not, the reasons for the same.

SHRI GHANSHYAM OZA : It is a good suggestion for action. We will take it into consideration when we consider the report of the officer concerned.

SHRI B. V. NAIK : We find that this Corporation has been purchased or nationalised by the Government at a capital cost of Re. 1, and that it was making a loss of Rs. 25 lakhs. Will it be a part of a consistent industrial policy that any consumer goods industry consistently loosing will be taken over by the Government at the Centre or in the States ?

MR. SPEAKER : The question was about steps taken to improve production, and you are going into general policy.

SHRI B. V. NAIK : I think the hon. Minister is anxious to reply.

MR. SPLAKER : Ministers are very anxious, but I am anxious to go ahead and let the other Members have their chance.

श्री राम सहाय पांडे : अध्यक्ष जी, प्रश्न के इधर उधर यदि प्रश्नकर्ता चला भी जाय और अगर मंत्री जी उस का उत्तर देना चाहते हों तो कृपा कर के आप इन का चेहरा देख लीजिए और उत्तर देना चाहते हो तो दिला दीजिए ।

अध्यक्ष महोदय : आज तक इतनी अच्छी राय किसी ने मुझे दी नहीं ।

SHRI P. VENKATASUBBAIAH : May I know whether this undertaking has received any orders from foreign countries, and if so,

to what extent has it been able to fulfil them ?

SHRI GHANSHYAM OZA : Some orders were received and we have tried to fulfil them, but they are not to our expectations.

Setting up of Graphite Electrode Project in Public Sector

*1536. **SHRI N. K. SINHA :** Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether a graphite electrode project in public sector is proposed to be set up in Bihar ; and

(b) if so, the progress thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY) : (a) and (b). Government are exploring the possibilities of setting up a unit in the public sector for the manufacture of graphite electrodes, and have invited offers for collaboration from well known manufacturers in industrially developed countries.

SHRI N. K. SINHA : Is it a fact that the country is producing not even half of our annual requirements ? In view of the fact that the principal raw material required, namely calcined coke, is produced at Barauni Oil Refinery and can be obtained cheaply at Samastipur, that Samastipur is a backward district where special concessions will be available even to the public sector and that there is a thermal power station close by, about 45 miles away at Barauni, do Government propose to consider the case of Samastipur for setting up this graphite electrodes factory ?

SHRI MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY : It is true that our production at the moment is far less than our requirements, and that is why Government is trying to go into this field. Out of our projected requirement of 20,000 tonnes, we have reserved 10,000 tonnes for the public sector, and the balance 10,000 tonnes will be given to the private sector. Certain applications are before the Government. I do not know whether any of them relates to Samastipur. If I remember a right, the only application we have got from Bihar relates to Modi Industries, which is a large industrial house.