

Electric Detonators

131. { Shri Subodh Hansda:
 { Shri S. C. Samanta:
 { Shri B. K. Das:

Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) how many firms have been given license for manufacture of electric detonators and when;

(b) whether they are producing it; and

(c) if not, when they are expected to produce?

The Minister of Industry in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Shri Kanungo): (a) to (c). Two firms have been licensed under the Industries (Development & Regulation) Act, 1951 to establish manufacture of electric detonators, one on the 7th January, 1961 and the other on the 4th May, 1962. They are expected to go into production by the latter half of 1964.

Purchase of steel from Japan

133. Shri D. C. Sharma: Will the Minister of Steel and Heavy Industries be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal to purchase special steel for buildings from Japan is under consideration; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the stage at which the matter stands at present?

The Minister of Steel and Heavy Industries (Shri C. Subramaniam): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Small Scale Industries Corporation

134. Shri Basappa: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state what steps have been taken to reorientate the schemes of the Small Scale Industries Corporation for defence needs?

The Minister of Industry in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Shri Kanungo): The following steps have been taken to reorientate some of the schemes of the National Small Industries Corporation Limited for defence needs:

Government Purchase Scheme:

A list of 400 items generally required by the Directorate General of Supplies and Disposals has been circulated amongst the Directors of Industries of States and the Small Industries Service Institutes with a view to encouraging production of those items by the Small Industrial Units in their respective regions.

Prototype Production and Training Centre, Okhla, New Delhi:

The Centre has initiated accelerated courses of training in addition to its normal training courses. 200 trainees in trades like Fitter, Black-Smithy, Foundry, Sheet Metal, Welding and Wood Working are accordingly undergoing accelerated training.

Fire in Heavy Electricals Ltd., Bhopal

135. { Shri P. C. Borooah:
 { Shri Yashpal Singh:
 { Shri Rameshwar Tantia:
 { Shri Bade:
 { Shri Bhakt Darshan:
 { Shri Bhagwat Jha Azad:
 { Shri Himatsingka:

Will the Minister of Steel and Heavy Industries be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a transformer oil tanker of Heavy Electricals Ltd., Bhopal caught fire on the 2nd February, 1963:

(b) if so, the loss of life and property involved in the fire incident; and

(c) the cause of the fire?

The Minister of Steel and Heavy Industries (Shri C. Subramaniam): (a) to (c). A transformer oil tanker in the Heavy Electricals Factory, Bhopal caught fire, on the 2nd February, 1963, due to the falling of hot slag from

flame cutting work on a piece of cotton waste on the cement floor of the oil test bed which, in turn, spread to the light diesel oil in the transformer tanker. The fire was brought under control after three hours. There was no loss of life but some workers, who assisted in the fire fighting operations, were affected by the heat. They were taken to the hospital and discharged after first aid treatment. All the injuries were minor. The oil in the transformer tank and some aluminium sheets of the roof directly above the place of accident were damaged. A preliminary estimate of the loss of property is about Rs. 30,000/- but the same is being correctly assessed by an Enquiry Committee consisting of Senior Officers of the Plant.

Indo-Soviet Trade Agreement

136. { Shri D. C. Sharma;
Shri Hem Raj;
Shri Bibhuti Mishra;
Shri Yashpal Singh;
Shri P. C. Borooah:

Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether a new trade agreement is proposed to be signed between India and the Soviet Union; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

The Minister of International Trade in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is proposed to enter into a new five year trade and payments agreement with Soviet Union as the present agreement expires at the end of 1963. A team of Soviet officials are expected to arrive in India shortly, to finalise arrangements for the new agreement.

Small Industry

137. Shri Rameshwar Tantia: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to change the definition of small in-

dustry so as to cover industrial units with capital assets upto Rs. 10,00,000; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

The Minister of Industry in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Shri Kanungo): (a) and (b). There was a proposal to revise the definition of small scale industries so as to cover industrial units with capital assets upto Rs. 10 lakhs. It has however been decided to shelve the proposal for the time being in view of the national emergency.

Imports and Exports by S.T.C.

138. Shri Rameshwar Tantia: Will the Minister of Commerce and Industry be pleased to state:

(a) the quantity and value of imports and exports made by the State Trading Corporation during 1962; and

(b) the break-up, commodity-wise and country-wise?

The Minister of International Trade in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry (Shri Manubhai Shah): (a) and (b). Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Engineering Industries

139. { Shri Hem Barua;
Shri Indrajit Gupta;
Shrimati Savitri Nigam:

Will the Minister of Steel and Heavy Industries be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 50 per cent of the installed capacity of engineering industries in the country is lying unutilised; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken to bridge this gulf?

The Minister of Steel and Heavy Industries (Shri C. Subramaniam): (a) It is not correct to say that 50% of installed capacity in engineering industry as a whole is lying unutilised in the country. The percentage of utilization of capacity varies