

companies, firms, societies or associations of manufacturers, exporters and importers in India.

Electronic Devices for Clearing Cheques

1204. SHRI P.M. SAYEED : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether a scheme to clear the outstation cheques and local cheques by electronic devices (Magnetic Ink Code Recogniser) was proposed in Delhi and other places;

(b) if so, when;

(c) whether the Reserve Bank of India has installed the necessary machine in the clearing house for the purpose; and

(d) if not, the reasons for delay ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY) : (a) to (d). Reserve Bank of India has worked out a Scheme of National Clearing of outstation cheques with the help of Mechanised Cheques Processing facility. Under the above Scheme, MICR Technology is proposed to be introduced for cheque clearing initially between 4 Metropolitan Centres, *viz.* Bombay, Deihi, Madras and Calcutta, after installing medium speed sorters. The Mechanised cheque clearing process facility will be utilised for clearing of local cheques also at the above Centres after high speed sorters have been installed. As part of the implementation of the Scheme of National Clearing of outstation cheques, two medium speed sorters have already been installed at Bombay at the Bankers Clearing House. Cheques drawn on Delhi and received from customers by banks/branches at Bombay are being cleared under the Mechanised Cheque Clearing Process at Bombay from the 8th July, 1986. Preparations are under way for installation of Medium speed sorters at Delhi also and when they become operational, cheques presented at Delhi branches and drawn on Bombay would be cleared under the Mechanised Cheque Clearing Process.

As a number of formalities have to be undergone and proper infrastructure created

before the Scheme can become fully operational, the Scheme is being implemented in phases.

Liberalisation of Imports of Certain Goods

1205. SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that last year imports were relaxed even for banned items except for animal tallow;

(b) whether liberal imports were allowed for units manufacturing textile, jute, cement, steel, and fertilizer for bringing modernisation; and

(c) the reasons which necessitated modernisation in the aforesaid trades ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BRAHMA DUTT) : (a) Only 'Cod liver oil' (Pharmaceutical Grade) has been removed from the list of Banned Items and has been placed under Limited Permissible List.

(b) and (c). Import of Capital Goods for modernisation is allowed for improvement of productivity and competitiveness.

Take Over of Sick Mills by NTC

1206. SHRI MOOL CHAND DAGA : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the news item captioned 'No More Take-Over of Sick Mills by NTC' appearing in English daily "Patriot" of 1-2-86;

(b) if so, the number of proposals received by Government to take-over sick mills during 1985-86 and how many have been accepted with reasons for the same;

(c) the number of proposals received after January, 1986 till date and how many have been accepted:

(d) whether any request has been received to return the mills already taken over by National Textiles Corporation and made viable; and