

(d) whether it is a fact that in Uttar Pradesh the Cola drink "77" is the largest selling soft drink even today?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) The Central Food Technological Research Institute (CFTRI) have informed that they have developed over 250 major and numerous minor technologies for food processing and that a large number of these technologies are already in use. In examining the proposals for the import of technology the availability or otherwise of the suitable indigenous technology is duly taken into consideration.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Government have not approved any import of technology for the manufacture of soft drinks during the last two years.

(d) No, Sir.

#### **Biogas from Water Hyacinth**

3375. SHRI V. SOBHANADREESWARA RAO: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Khadi and Village Industries Commission has taken notice of the news item "Biogas from water Hyacinth" appeared in the "The Hindu" of 20 February, 1987; and

(b) if so, what steps are proposed by the Khadi and Village Industries Commission to encourage installation of some more units on the same lines to produce gas from waste?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b). Under the present arrangement, Khadi

and Village Industries Commission is one of the agencies designated by the Department of Non-Conventional Energy Sources for implementation of the national programme. However, KVIC is aware of the technology for producing biogas from water hyacinth. An experimental biogas plant has been put up at Bharatpur in Rajasthan whose performance was not very much encouraging.

#### **Modernisation and Mechanisation of Coir Industry**

3376. PROF. K. V. THOMAS:  
SHRI SURESH KURUP:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether modernisation and mechanisation will be done in coir industry;

(b) the welfare measures proposed to be taken to help coir workers; and

(c) the details of the projects of Coir Board to revitalise the coir industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) Modernization and mechanization of the coir industry is a slow process as it involves displacement of labour. However, Government are encouraging schemes under the Co-operativisation scheme for modernization and renovation of equipment, looms etc.

(b) A model village scheme for welfare of coir workers has been extended to 50 more villages with a provision of Rs 1.5 crores in the current plan period. A new scheme for medicare to coir workers for studying the occupational health hazards so as to take preventive measures will be implemented by the Coir Board and Kerala Govt. at a cost of Rs 2 crores.