

emission standards, the Hon'ble Court suspends the closure orders. These industrial units are located mainly in the States of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar and West Bengal. The industries which have not installed necessary treatment facilities are still closed. The Supreme Court is monitoring the status of the affected industrial units. As per the information available, the Hon'ble Supreme Court had, on different dates, ordered the closure of more than 500 industrial units in the Taj Trapezium Zone and in the Ganga basin. In a recent judgement dated 1.5.1995, Supreme Court had ordered the closure of 57 tannery units in Tamil Nadu.

(c) Assistance is provided for setting up of Common Effluent Treatment Plants (CETP) for clusters of Small Scale Industries. Under this scheme, an assistance of 25% or a maximum of Rs. 50.0 lakhs is provided from the Central Government subject to matching contribution of the State Government. The balance is met by IDBI through a loan contribution (soft-loan) and promoters' contribution. Government gives rebate on Custom and Excise duties for the procurement of pollution control equipment. A higher rate of depreciation allowance is given on equipment which are installed for pollution control. Further exemption on capital gains is given to the conforming industrial areas. 25% rebate is also given to the industries for Water Cess for complying with the prescribed standards. Apart from financial assistance given to small scale industrial units a programme of building awareness in the personnel associated with scale industries has been taken up. A project for setting up demonstration units in certain polluting sectors of small scale units has also been initiated.

[Translation]

Rail Engine

5195. SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :

SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH :

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have recently started the production of rail engine "Chetak" with indigenous technique;

(b) if so, the speed limit of "Chetak" and the number of passenger coaches which it can haul up;

(c) the number of Chetak engines produced in the country annually; and

(d) the estimated cost to be incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI C.K. JAFFER SHARIEF) : (a) The first prototype 2300 HP WDP1 locomotive (named "Chetak") has been manufactured with indigenous technology.

(b) The locomotive has been designed for a maximum operating speed of 120 Kmph. However, the

actual speed potential will be determined after the results of oscillation trial are evaluated. The locomotive can haul 17 coaches at 100 Kmph and 11 coaches at 120 Kmph.

(c) There is a programme to manufacture 20 WDP1 locomotives during 1995-96.

(d) The estimated cost of the WDP1 locomotive is around Rs. 1.8 crores each.

Essential Commodities Act, 1955

5196. DR. CHINTA MOHAN :

SHRI GUMAN MAL LODHA :

Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government by making amendment in the 'Essential Commodities Act, 1955 recently have exempted the public and cooperative sectors from their ceilings of storing pulses, oilseeds, and edible oil etc. in the country;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) the reasons for giving such exemption to public and cooperative institutions;

(d) whether any guidelines have recently been issued to these institutions in regard to their storage capacity;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI BUTA SINGH) : (a) and (b). The Government has vide the "Pulses, Edible Oilseeds and Edible Oils (Storage Control) (Amendment) Order, 1995", has exempted corporations/companies owned or controlled by the Central Government or a State Government, Statutory Boards and Central/State level cooperative societies, engaged in the production, procurement, sales, purchase or distribution of pulses, edible oilseeds and edible oils from the stock limits prescribed in the Pulses, Edible Oilseeds and Edible Oils (Storage Control) Order, 1977. For granting this exemption, no amendment to the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 was necessary.

(c) Exemption from the stock limits to these organisations was considered necessary in order to enable them to procure oilseeds from the farmers during the rabi marketing season and to protect the interests of farmers.

(d) to (f). The Amendment Order mentioned above, stipulates that such organisations which have been granted exemption from the stock limits shall furnish information relating to purchase, sale and stock of edible oilseeds/edible oils held by them to the Central Government or, as the case may be, to the State Government.