

(a) the number out of items in the defence inventory ;

(b) the number of these which have been codified ;

(c) the steps taken to codify the remaining items ; and

(d) whether any steps are being taken towards variety reduction in defence stores ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ V. PATIL) : (a) The total number of items in the Defence inventory is Approx. 15 lakhs.

(b) Out of these, more than 3.5 lakhs items have been codified.

(c) It is being done on a selective basis. Annual targets are fixed based on priority being accorded on considerations of turnover, strategic importance etc. The performance against target is reviewed periodically.

(d) Variety reduction is an on going exercise. The main steps followed for ensuring variety reduction are :

(i) Forming a rationalised list of stores by eliminating, superfluous varieties.

(ii) Forming special panels/export groups for evolving joint specifications of items common to the three Services.

(iii) By using EDP Facilities.

Appointment of Inquiry Commissions

6362. SHRI H.M. PATEL : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2915 on 6 August, 1986 regarding Appointment of Commissions under Commissions of Inquiry Act, 1952 and state :

(a) whether the information has since been collected ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ;

(c) whether subsequent to the ordinance withholding the reports, any reports of any Inquiry Commission have been laid before Parliament ; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) and (b) No, Sir. The requisite information from some of the Ministries is still awaited.

(c) and (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Help to Engineering Industry in Finding Markets Abroad

6363. DR. V. VENKATESH : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether he had asked the Engineering Industry to search more aggressively for markets abroad ;

(b) if so, whether his Ministry and its mission abroad were fully ready to render all possible assistance in this regard ; and

(c) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI NARAYAN DATT TIWARI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes Sir.

(c) The Indian diplomatic missions and posts abroad have either full-fledged Commercial Wings, or, in the case of small missions, are geared towards promoting India's exports of engineering goods and others. Similarly the Ministry of External Affairs is organised to coordinate its activities with other Ministries of Government of India or concerned organisations in order to perform a useful role in promoting Indian exports.