

Present Growth Rate of Economy

1117. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN: Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state the present growth rate of the Indian Economy and steps taken by Government to check its sharp decline in the second half of the year?

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING (SHRI N. D. TEWARI): The national income of India has been estimated to have declined by over 2 per cent during 1979-80.

The fall in National Income during 1979-80 was due largely to a decline in agricultural output on account of widespread drought in large parts of the country. Some other areas were also affected by floods. As a result, agricultural production received a set back. Similarly, constraints of raw materials and inadequacy of infra-structural inputs like power, coal, rail transport etc., industrial unrest were responsible for decline in industrial production. While initiating steps to augment agricultural production, stress will continue to be given to increase agricultural production and special action plans are already underway for raising the output of oilseeds, pulses and sugarcane. In the field of industry, larger outlays have been provided for steel, coal, non-ferrous metals and fertilisers in the Annual Plan 1980-81 to overcome the constraints in the industrial production. Greater attention is also being paid to bring about necessary coordination in the provision of infra structural services of essential sectors of the economy as well as to the monitoring of projects. Assuming normal weather conditions, it is expected that all these measures would lead to a significant increase in national income during 1980-81.

BHEL-Siemens Collaboration

1118. SHRI NAVIN RAVANI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is another move by BHEL authorities to enter into

collaboration agreement with West German multinational company Siemens for the manufacture of condensers for 220-MW generators;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether R&D unit has successfully developed such condensers in India and if so, whether it was a fact that this information was not given to BARC authorities before taking their O.K. for collaboration;

(d) whether BHEL management had consulted R&D unit before making such a collaboration proposal; and

(e) if not, what actions were taken against these responsible officers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI CHARANJIT CHANANA): (a) and (b). Early this month Government have received an application from Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd. for entering into a technical collaboration agreement with M/s. KWU of West Germany (a wholly owned subsidiary of Siemens AG) for the manufacture of steam surface condensers and auxiliaries to match steam turbines of capacities upto 1000 MW. Government are yet to examine the proposal.

(c) No Sir, does not arise.

(d) Corporate R. & D has always been associated in the process of acquisition and development of technology.

(e) Does not arise.

Right to strike to Central Government Employees

1119. SHRIMATI PRAMILA DAN-DAVATE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken note of the recent changes made by the West Bengal Government in the Service Conduct Rules giving