

increase the production of items which are currently in short supply and are likely to be in short supply for some time to come.

The import policy concerning the import of industrial raw materials is also being reviewed from time to time by the Standing Internal Departmental Committee to meet the short-term scarcity conditions. The import policy of 1971-72 contains special provisions for import of items which are in world short-supply. The industries which are affected due to short supply of raw-materials arising from the world shortage are being permitted to apply for import of raw materials for over a period of six months at a time.

The import policy also provides for review of entitlements of Actual Users. Cases of Actual Users, in which it is established that the operation of existing import policy has caused undue hardship and is likely to affect industrial production, are considered for imports by the Sub-Committee under the C.C.I and E.

Industries in Meghalaya

528. SHRI DINESH CHANDER GOSWAMI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that in the entire South bank of river Brahmaputra in the District of Kamrup and the State of Meghalaya there is no industry in spite of rich mineral potentials;

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take to develop the potential industries of this region; and

(c) if no steps are being contemplated, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI GHANSHYAM OZA) :

(a) to (c). For an overall assessment and fuller utilisation of the natural resources that are available in the North-Eastern region, including Assam and Meghalaya, three working groups viz. (i) Agro-based industries, (ii) Forest based industries and (iii) Coal and Natural Gas or generally for

mineral based industries were set up under the auspices of the Standing Committee of the Eastern Zonal Council, to conduct detailed studies on the integrated industrial potential of the region. On the basis of these studies, it is proposed to draw up a coordinated plan for the integrated industrial development of the region. The reports of the Working Group are currently under the consideration of the Standing Committee of the Eastern Zonal Council. It may be added that provision for a cinnamon oil project and provision for investigation, survey, preparation of feasibility reports etc., have been made in Meghalaya's 4th Plan programme. Besides, the Ministry of Industrial Development had also recently sent a study team to explore possibilities of setting up industries in Meghalaya. It is hoped that as a result of these measures some industries will be set up in Meghalaya and the Kamrup region.

Closure of Newspapers in Assam due to Non-Availability of Newspaper

529. SHRI DINESH CHANDER GOSWAMI : Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware that many newspapers in Assam are facing closure due to non-availability of newspaper; and

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government to make newsprints available to the newspaper industry, in Assam ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SIDHESHWAR PRASAD) :

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Assistance by West Germany in Nozzle Separation Process of Uranium

530. SHRI NAWAL KISHORE SHARMA : Will the Minister of ATOMIC ENERGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government of West Germany have offered assistance to the Indian scientists to tell the secretary of nozzle separation process of uranium;

(b) if so, whether some plants are to be set up for this purpose;

(c) the estimated expenditure to be incurred on setting up a plant; and

(d) the extent to which such a plant will be helpful in the development of science and agriculture in the country ?

THE PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY, MINISTER OF ELECTRONICS, MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI) : (a) Information on the development of the nozzle process in West Germany for the separation of Uranium, which is unclassified, would be available to India.

(b) to (d). Plans for a pilot plant using this process must await examination of various alternative processes.

Bengal Film Industry Facing financial crisis

532. SHRI N K SANGHI, Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the film industry in Bengal is facing a financial crisis and the studios there are likely to be disclosed down ;

(b) whether Government have analysed the reasons which have led to this crisis and the steps proposed to be taken in the matter , and

(c) whether the Eastern India Motion Pictures' Association has appealed to the Central Government for assistance and, if so, the nature of help sought and the reaction of Government in this connection ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI DHARAM BIR SINHA) : (a) It has been reported that the film industry in West Bengal is passing through a spell of financial strain but this is not likely to lead to the closure of all the studios in that State

(b) Enquiries have been made from the State Government, who have informed the

Central Government that this crisis has been engaging their attention for some years and the latter appointed a Film Enquiry Committee under the Chairmanship of Justice K C. Sen in 1962. Another *Ad hoc* Committee headed by Shri R. Gupta was set up in 1966 by the State Government. The reports of both these committees were published in 1968.

In June, 1969 a State Film Consultative Committee was appointed by the State Government consisting of representatives of all sectors of the film industry. This Committee was entrusted with the task of suggesting methods for implementing different recommendations of the previous committees as also making new recommendations, if any, in view of the changing situation. Its report containing various measures for improvement of the industry is now under consideration of the State Government.

(c) Yes, Sir. The demands of the film industry included reservation of 20% of screening time for Bengali films in all cinema houses, implementation of main recommendations of the State Film Consultative Committee, setting up of well-equipped studio and Laboratory in Calcutta, expansion of screening facilities, etc. The Central Government have taken up the matter with the State Government since they are primarily concerned with the matter.

Report of Technical Committee for manufacture of small car

533. SHRI N. K. SANGHI :
SHRI BANAMALI PATNAIK :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Technical Committee entrusted to evaluate the different proposals for the manufacture of small car in the public sector, has since presented its report to Government ;

(b) if so, the findings of the Committee with regard to the type of the car that may be produced, its cost on road, the capacity of the proposed factory and its location ; and