

(b) whether Government have decided to meet the full raw material requirements of priority industries;

(c) whether there is likely to be any change in foreign exchange allocations for import of essential raw materials; and

(d) if so, the outlines thereof and how does Government propose to meet full requirements of basic raw material?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM): (a) Yes Sir, for some industries.

(b) It is Government's endeavour to meet the requirements of imported raw materials of priority industries, to the fullest extent possible, but this is subject to the over-all constraint of foreign exchange availability in the context of steep increases in prices of most imported raw materials, and also to the constraint of availability of the required raw materials in international markets.

(c) Additional allocations of foreign exchange have been made for the import of essential raw materials.

(d) Government is endeavouring to increase the availability of basic raw materials by increased production in the country and by encouraging substitution of imported raw materials by indigenous ones to the extent possible.

Census of Small Scale Industries

2586. SHRI JAGANNATH MISHRA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) what progress has been made for the preparation of inventory of small scale industries (region-wise) and (Industry-wise);

(b) whether census of small scale industries has also been made; and

(c) if so, the outlines thereof and the quantity of raw material required by the small scale industries during the next three years?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ZIAUR RAHMAN ANSARI): (a) to (c). Action to organise a census of small scale industrial units coming under the purview of the Small Scale Industries Board has been initiated on 1st September, 1973. The training of the field staff for census work is at present in progress. Details will be worked out after completion of census.

Scheme for National Information System as Infra-structure for Scientific and Technological Development

2587. SHRI JAGANNATH MISHRA: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have formulated any scheme for National Information System as an infra-structure for scientific and technological development in the country; and

(b) if so, the outlines thereof

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM): (a) The National Committee on Science and Technology has prepared a draft plan for National Information System for Science and Technology (NISSAT), which is under consideration.

(b) This system is envisaged as a national information grid for scientific, technical and economic information and would involve a number of agencies in the country. The national grid would collect and collate scientific and technical information from various sources and it will render information