

Expansion of Production by Coca Cola Export Corporation

343. SHRI MADHU LIMAYE: Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the fact that any expansion of production by any of the Indian Bottling units bottling Coca Cola will amount to an expansion by the Coca Cola Export Corporation of its production and consequent increase in its profit repatriation;

(b) whether starting of new units bottling Coca Cola will not also amount to expansion of the production by Coca Cola Export Corporation and consequent increase in its profit repatriation.

(c) whether these bottling units who are at present bottling Coca Cola will be directed to produce Indian drinks with Indian brand names within a specified period; and

(d) if not, reasons for not issuing such directives?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND AGRICULTURE (SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM): (a) and (b). Government are aware of the fact that expansion of existing units or setting up of new units for bottling Coca Cola will result in indirect expansion of the Coca-Cola Export Corporation.

(c) and (d): The possibility of the Coca-Cola Bottlers producing soft drinks with Indian Brand names is being explored.

Applications from Foreign Companies for Import Licences

344. SHRI MADHU LIMAYE: Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No 9566 on the 8th May, 1974 regarding Applications from foreign companies for import licences and state:

(a) whether the information about the applications made by the foreign companies for import licences valued at Rs. 2 lacs and above during 1973-74 and the action taken by Government thereon, has since been collected.

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons for the delay?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ZIAUR RAHMAN ANSARI): (a) to (c). Information relating to the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No 9566 is still being collected. The delay in the collection of the information is due to the fact that all import licences are not issued by the Chief Controller of Imports and Exports from New Delhi. According to the policy depending on the nature of the imports, import licences could be issued by any of the 18 licensing authorities. Information about the import licences issued to the foreign companies during 1973-74 are being collected from all these authorities.

The question, also, relates to the number of applications made by these firms. According to the Policy, certain categories of import applications are to be made through the Sponsoring Authorities like the D.G.T.D., Textile Commissioner, Tea Board, etc. and the sponsoring authorities are empowered to reject the applications if these were not according to policy. In view of this, the number of import licences

issued may not be the same as the number of applications. The information in respect of the applications made by these firms are also being collected from the various sponsoring authorities. In addition to the Director of Industries in each State, there are 22 other sponsoring authorities. As the number involved is large and the information have to be collected from a large number of Organisations some more time will be needed before the information is placed on the Table of the House.

Secret Airstrip built by Smugglers for smuggling of Arms and Ammunition from Western Coast of Maharashtra and Gujarat

345. SHRI MADHU LIMAYE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a secret airstrip has been built by Indian smugglers in collaboration with international smugglers for smuggling arms, ammunition, grenades and automatic rifles from Western Coast of Maharashtra and Gujarat;

(b) if so, what are the details; and

(c) steps taken to stop the smugglers' activities?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI F. H. MOHSIN): (a). The State Governments of Maharashtra and Gujarat have reported that no such incident have come to their notice so far.

(b) and (c): Does not arise.

Lock-out in Indian Standards Institution

346. SHRI MANORANJAN HAZRA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the reason for the lock-out in the Indian Standards Institution, Delhi, since 18th May; and

(b) the steps being taken by Government to meet the demands of the employees?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AND SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND AGRICULTURE

(SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM): (a) and

(b) The functioning of the ISI's Head quarters Office at Delhi remained suspended from 17th May to 9th June, 1974 as the Institution's work had been paralysed by cessation of work, agitation and noisy demonstrations by a large section of Grades II, III and IV employees of ISI who were agitating for enhancement of House Rent Allowance from 20 to 25 per cent on the revised pay scales. A situation had arisen in which keeping the Institution open was fraught with risk and danger to its property and loyal employees. The term 'lock-out' applies to industry, and the ISI being an Institution the question of lock-out in the Institution does not arise.

The Institution has started functioning from 10th June, 1974 and is working normally. The employees have accepted HRA at 20 per cent of the revised scales of pay. Thereafter no specific demand has been received from the employees.