

Tarna Watch Co., Mandi applied to the Joint Chief Controller of Imports and Exports (Central Licensing Area) New Delhi on 5th February, 1968 for permission to process raw material and parts for manufacture of Clocks and time-pieces outside the factory.

(b) No, Sir. The permission has not been granted.

(c) On investigation it was discovered that the firm had no means to manufacture, assemble or process the imported raw materials either at Mandi or outside.

#### Accumulation of Stock of Electronic Components

7364. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR SALVE : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that owing to heavy excise duty there is a huge accumulation of stock of components with electronic components industry, thereby and

(b) if so, the steps Government propose to take to provide relief to the industry.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI L. N. MISHRA) : (a) and (b). Excise duty was imposed in 1968-69 on two electronic components namely (i) Receiving Valves and (ii) Transistors and Diodes, if they were used in radios, etc. The duty on Valve was Rs. 3/- per piece and on transistor and diode Re 1/- per piece. There had been some accumulation of stock of valves during the year. The electronic components industry is on the whole progressing well and production during the year was about 40% higher than the previous year.

There is a proposal to reduce the excise duty on the two components during this year.

#### Kandla Free Trade Zone

7365. SHRI NARENDRA KUMAR SALVE : Will the Minister of FOREIGN

TRADE AND SUPPLY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that so far very few industries have been set up in Kandla Free Trade Zone ;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ; and

(c) the steps Government propose to take to encourage industrialists to set up industries in Kandla Free Trade Zone ?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE AND SUPPLY (SHRI CHOWDHARY RAM SEWAK) : (a) to (c). Six industries have so far commenced production and exports from the Zone. A few more are expected to start production during the current year. While the Scheme has made a definite advance, it being the first experiment of its kind in India it would naturally take some time before big gains materialise. Government is constantly reviewing the progress of the Zone and suitable measures are taken to improve its working whenever necessary.

#### Border Roads Organisation

7366. SHRI N. R. DEOGHARE : Will the MINISTER OF DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that General Reserve Engineers Force is being underutilized by the Border Roads Organisation during the slack season ;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ; and

(c) any proposal to utilize the force fully ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SWARAN SINGH) : (a) and (b). The General Reserve Engineer Force operates mainly in forward areas, which are subject to extreme climatic conditions. In some areas, the temperature becomes subzero and heavy snow conditions prevail during winter. In other areas, work is hampered by heavy rains and floods during the monsoon season. During these periods, the tempo of constructional activities comes down and the output is reduced.

(c) The following main measures have been taken with a view to secure optimum utilisation of resources during such periods :

- (i) The strength of civilian labour employed on as required basis, is brought down.
- (ii) Maximum number of G. R. E. F. personnel are permitted to avail themselves of earned leave during this period.
- (iii) If feasible, resources are moved to other areas where conditions are not so unfavourable.
- (iv) Field and other repairs to machinery and equipment are undertaken.

The feasibility of taking up army works, specially the construction of technical and residential accommodation during the above periods, is also under consideration.

#### Machinery Lying Unused with Border Roads Organization

7367. SHRI N. R. DEOGHARE : Will the MINISTER OF DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the machinery lying with the Border Roads is not fully utilized ;

(b) whether it is also a fact that in spite of a good amount of machinery lying in the workshop of the Organisation for repairs, the Organisation has been making fresh purchases of machinery ; and

(c) if so, reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI SWARAN SINGH) : (a) Of the machinery, equipment and vehicles with Border Road Organisation, machinery etc, about 0.3% in value is lying unutilised. A sample survey on utilisation of major items of equipment and vehicles brought into use has been carried out by D. G. B. R. It has been assessed that having regard to limited construction season,

dispersed and far-flung areas where they are deployed and the different stages of construction at which different machines are to be used, the utilisation of main items of equipment and vehicles was not unsatisfactory.

(b) and (c). All proposals for fresh purchases of machinery and equipment are subject to detailed examination in consultation with the Finance Ministry. Approval to fresh purchases is accorded on the basis of actual/anticipated requirements after taking into account the repairable equipment.

#### Remuneration Payable to Chairman Aeronautical Committee

7368. SHRI MADHU LIMAYE : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Shri C. Subramaniam has commented on the objection raised by the Joint Committee on Offices of Profit to his drawing Rs. 850 per month as Chairman, Aeronautical Committee ; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI L. N. MISHRA) : (a) and (b). According to information available, Shri C. Subramaniam did not comment on the objection raised by the Joint Committee on Offices of Profit, to his drawing Rs. 850 per month as the Chairman of the Aeronautics Committee. To a question whether he would return the amount in view of the observation of the Joint Committee on Offices of Profit, Shri C. Subramaniam stated that there was no reason why he should do so as the authorisation of the payment was based on similar precedents.

#### Price of B. Twill Bags

7369. SHRI MADHU LIMAYE : Will the Minister of FOREIGN TRADE AND SUPPLY be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the jute