

Smuggling of H.M.T. watches

*134. KUMARI KAMLA KUMARI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether H.M.T. watches are being smuggled out of the country and H.M.T. Sales Office in Delhi supplies several watches to one trader; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI A. C. GEORGE): (a) and (b). The sales of HMT watches in the country are being done by the Hindustan Machine Tools Limited through their sales-cum-service centres and Consumer Co-operative Wholesale Departmental Stores and Military Canteens located in different parts of the country. In the Delhi Sales Office of HMT, the sales are done across the sales counter on "First come first serve" basis. There is no system of selling HMT watches through traders and therefore the question of supplying several watches to any particular trader does not arise. No incident in respect of smuggling of HMT watches out of the country or the supply of watches to one particular trader has come to the notice of the Government.

Setting up of an Electronics Bank for Import of Raw Material, Components and Technology

*135. SHRI ARVIND M. PATEL: Will the Minister of ELECTRONICS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to establish an Electronics Bank for import of raw material components and technology; and

(b) if so, the main feature thereof?

THE PRIME MINISTER, MINISTER OF ATOMIC ENERGY, MINISTER OF ELECTRONICS AND MINISTER OF SPACE (SHRIMATI INDIRA GANDHI): (a) and (b). A public sector corporation under the name "Electronics Trade and Technology Development Corporation" has recently been registered under the Department of Electronics with a view to organise and develop trade in all types of electronic equipment, systems, sub-assemblies, components, etc. It will also bulk, as far as possible, the present and future requirements of scarce materials and components and arrange to procure them and, if necessary, stock them to satisfy the continuing needs of the Electronics industry. The Corporation will also locate appropriate know-how and technology for the development of electronics items to avoid repetitive import from several sources.

Newsprint Factory in Kerala

*136. SHRI A. K. GOPALAN:

SHRI C. JANARDHANAN:

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the public sector newsprint factory being set up at Vellur in Kerala will go into production in 1976 as publicly stated by Shri I. K. Gujral, Minister of Information and Broadcasting during his recent visit to Kerala; and

(b) the time by which the newsprint factory is expected to go into production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI B. P. MAURYA): (a) and (b). The proposed newsprint factory at Vellur in Kerala is expected to go into production approximately 3-1/2 years from the date of placement of orders for plant and equipment, and according to present indications, the Kerala project is expected to be commissioned by the fourth quarter of 1978.