

**Additional Functions and Responsibilities of Department of Science and Technology**

\*218. SHRI PAMPAN GOWDA (on behalf of SHRI DHARAMRAO AFZALPURKAR) : Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to expand the functions and responsibilities of the newly created Department of Science and Technology ; and

(b) if so, the salient features of the proposal ?

THE MINISTER OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM) : (a) and (b). The responsibilities and functions of the Department of Science and Technology have been specified in Presidential Notification Doc. No. CD-610/71 dated October 12, 1971. A copy of the Notification is placed on the Table of the House. There is no proposal at present to make any further additions.

**NOTIFICATION**

In exercise of the powers conferred by clause (3) of article 77 of the Constitution, the President hereby makes the following rules further to amend the Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules, 1961, namely:—

1. (1) These rules may be called the Government of India (Allocation of Business) (Ninety-first Amendment) Rule, 1971.

(2) They shall come into force at once.

2. In the Second Schedule to the Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules, 1961—

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(2) for the entries under the heading "Department of Science and Technology (Vigyan aur Prodyogiki Vibhag)" the following entries shall be substituted, namely :

"1. Formulation of policy statements and guidelines on science and technology and the following through of their implementation.

2. National Committee on Science and Technology.

3. Promotion of new areas of science and technology.

4. Oceanography including the scientific and technological aspects of the seabed and ocean floor.

5. Environment and Ecology.

6. Futurology.

7. All matters concerning the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research.

8. Survey of India and National Atlas Organisation.

9. Botanical Survey of India.

10. Zoological Survey of India.

11. National Research Development Corporation.

12. Annual Session of the Indian Science Congress Association.

13. Central Board of Geophysics.

14. The Pan-Indian Ocean Science Association.

15. Coordination of areas of Science and technology in which a number of institutions and departments have interests and capabilities.

16. Undertaking or financially sponsoring scientific and technological surveys, research, design, development where necessary.

17. Grants to national research institutions, scientific associations and scientific bodies, including Indian National Science Academy, the Indian Academy of Science and the National Academy of Sciences.

18. All matters concerning domestic technology particularly the promotion of ventures involving the commercialisation of such technology.

19. International Scientific and Technological Affairs including—

(a) the negotiation and implementation of Scientific and Technological Cooperation Agreements and responsibility for the scientific and technological aspects of the activities of international organisations ; and

(b) appointment of Scientific Attaches abroad.

Note: These functions shall be exercised by the Department of Science and Technology (Vigyan aur Prodyogiki Vibhag) in close cooperation with the ministry of External Affairs (Videsh Mantralaya).

20. Matters commonly affecting scientific and technological institutions e.g. financial, personnel, purchase and import policies and practices.

21. All other measures needed for the promotion of science and technology and their application to the development and security of the nation."

**SHRI PAMPAN GOWDA:** As many highly qualified and well-trained Indian scientists are working in foreign countries for want of jobs, is there any proposal before the Government to call them back and give them proper jobs to serve better our country ?

**Mr. SPEAKER:** This is just a suggestion for action, but, if the Minister has got something to say, he is very welcome to say.

**SHRI C. SUBRAMANIAM:** We will consider the suggestion made by the hon. Member. But we should have proper jobs for them here, and that is one of the functions of the COST.

#### Reopening of closed Industrial Units in Calcutta

\*219. **SHRI FATEH SINGH RAO GAEKWAD:** Will the Minister of INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) the total number of closed factories in Calcutta, which have not yet been reopened together with the number of those which are considered as having been closed permanently ;

(b) the total number of people rendered out of employment as a result of these closures ;

(c) the reasons for the closures ; and

(d) the steps being taken by the reopening of the closed factories ?

**THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MOINUL HAQUE CHOUDHURY):** (a) to (d). A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

#### Statement

(a) Regionwise figures of closed units are readily available only for the period from 1.1.1971 to 31.8.1971. According to the provisional statistics received from the Government of West Bengal, during the period 1.1.71 to 31.8.71, 55 industrial units were closed down in Calcutta ; out of these, 38 units had not reopened. One out of these 38 units is considered as permanently closed.

(b) In the 38 units which had not reopened, the total number of persons employed was 7,798.

(c) The closure of industrial units is mainly due to the following reasons :

- (i) Labour-management problems,
- (ii) shortage of raw materials,
- (iii) lack of demand, and
- (iv) financial difficulties.

(d) Among the various steps being taken by the Government for reopening of closed factories in West Bengal, including Calcutta, the main and important ones are as follows :

(i) The Industrial Reconstruction Corporation of India was set up in April 1971 with its headquarters at Calcutta, for reviving and rehabilitating the closed and sick industrial units ;

(ii) An Ordinance has been promulgated amending the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951. Among other things, it provides, in respect of industrial undertakings which have been taken over for management under the provisions of the Act, a moratorium from pre-existing liabilities, up to a maximum period of five years. It also provides, in the case of those undertakings whose current liabilities exceed current assets for the sale of the undertaking at a reserve price and simultaneous